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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x  
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

17 CR 684 (ER)

5 CHRISTIAN DAWKINS AND MERL  
6 CODE ,

7 Defendants.

Trial

-----x

8 New York, N.Y.

9 April 24, 2019

10 9:00 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. EDGARDO RAMOS

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN

16 United States Attorney for the  
17 Southern District of New York

18 ROBERT L. BOONE

19 NOAH D. SOLOWIEJCZYK

20 ELI J. MARK

21 Assistant United States Attorneys

22 HANEY LAW GROUP PLLC

23 Attorney for Defendant Dawkins

24 CHANEY LEGAL SERVICES, LLC

25 BY: DAVID A. CHANEY, JR.

-and-

NEXSEN PRUET, LLC

BY: ANDREW A. MATHIAS

MARK C. MOORE

Attorneys for Defendant Code

ALSO PRESENT: JOHN VOURDERIS, Special Agent FBI

YOLANDA BUSTILLO, Paralegal Specialist USAO

EMILY GOLDMAN, Paralegal Specialist USAO

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(Trial resumed)

THE COURT: Are you folks ready, or are we waiting for Mr. Solowiejczyk?

MR. BOONE: No, your Honor. We're not waiting.

THE COURT: OK. I got the government's letter yesterday evening requesting that I strike certain questions and answers and I give a curative instruction. Has the defense had an opportunity to review that letter?

MR. MOORE: We have, your Honor.

MR. HANEY: We have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you have any objection to it?

MR. MOORE: We do have an objection to it, your Honor. A number of questions that the government wishes to strike are questions that were posed, were objected to, and your Honor overruled those objections. I see no reason for your Honor to revisit those rulings now. The government seeks to sanitize their alleged victims in this case and not have any inquiry, not even a limited inquiry, about the fact that these alleged victims make a lot of money from college basketball. And we think that all of the questions that were asked were appropriate, were not in violation of any rulings that your Honor has made with respect to motions *in limine*.

I know that what your Honor told us yesterday was you were giving us a limited window. You gave us a limited window. I think that your Honor's rulings were appropriate yesterday.

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1 We, obviously, accept the rulings when we made -- we asked  
2 questions and your Honor sustained those objections, and,  
3 obviously, those sustained questions were not answered by the  
4 witness. So I see no reason -- the government's motion strikes  
5 me as a little whiny, frankly.

6 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I would only add that the  
7 questions that were asked on cross-examination were a  
8 derivative of what was asked on direct examination when  
9 Mr. Boone asked hypothetical questions of the witness, what  
10 would happen if these particular occurrences were known, what  
11 kind of NCAA sanctions could occur, what kind of money could be  
12 lost, what kind of banners could be removed from the Final  
13 Four. All those questions were asked of the witness on direct  
14 examination, which opened the door to ask those questions and  
15 explore that information on cross-examination. We didn't just  
16 jump into that line of questioning without the prompting that  
17 occurred by Mr. Boone on the direct examination. I don't even  
18 agree in theory in what they're even suggesting occurred, not  
19 to mention the cross-examination was clearly based on what the  
20 direct examination offered.

21 Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Does the government wish to respond?

23 MR. MARK: I mean, just briefly. Beyond the fact, as  
24 we said, that this line of questioning was objectionable, and  
25 really, as you see the cumulative nature -- and we've laid this

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1 out in our letter -- of what they were trying to do, we do  
2 argue, as we've laid out, seeks just purely to irrelevant,  
3 prejudicial matters that seek to inject the business of college  
4 basketball into this case in a way that has an inappropriate --  
5 or at least can have an inappropriate effect.

6 To the sense that they are saying that we -- well,  
7 one, their argument that the schools make a lot of money from  
8 college basketball, my understanding was that that wasn't  
9 somewhere they were going to go. That's why we filed that  
10 motion *in limine*, and we understood that we had an agreement  
11 from them. So I think that was an area that we all understood  
12 was not going to be part of this case, so I think that was  
13 directly inappropriate.

14 In the sense that what Mr. Haney said was derivative  
15 of the government's direct, just isn't so. If you look at  
16 these questions, there's questions about the University of  
17 South Carolina sponsorship agreement with Under Armour. Those  
18 things weren't even discussed during direct. While there was a  
19 hypothetical question posed about what are the potential  
20 consequences to the school, there was specifically no  
21 discussion about the exact amounts of money or anything like  
22 that because those issues would be irrelevant. The fact that  
23 there are consequences to NCAA rules violations is, obviously,  
24 part of the milieu of this case and part of the fact that why  
25 these schools do have these rules and why they follow those

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1 rules and make their coaches follow them in connection with  
2 their contracts.

3 So we do think all of these were irrelevant,  
4 prejudicial and, particularly in their cumulative effect,  
5 require a curative instruction.

6 THE COURT: Here's where I come down. I reviewed,  
7 obviously, the questions and answers, and they fall into three  
8 categories: One category is, essentially, does the University  
9 of South Carolina benefit from its relationship with Under  
10 Armour? I allowed that particular question to be answered on  
11 two occasions. I did not allow the defense to go into the  
12 actual monetary amount that they benefit by, but the fact that  
13 there was an economic relationship with Under Armour and the  
14 University of South Carolina strikes me as incredibly  
15 noncontroversial. It's something that was previewed with the  
16 venire when they came in. In fact, a vast majority of the  
17 jurors indicated that they had some view of the financial  
18 relationship between the various parties and college  
19 basketball. A vast majority, or at least a clear majority,  
20 indicated that they were uncomfortable with the amount of money  
21 that universities made and with the fact that the student  
22 athletes were not compensated. So they are well aware of this,  
23 and it would not have caused any surprise to learn that there  
24 is a financial relationship between Under Armour and South  
25 Carolina. And that's as far as that went.

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1           Secondly, the second area has to do with runners and  
2 whether or not Mr. Miller, in his capacity as a NCAA compliance  
3 officer, investigated runners during the course of his  
4 employment with the NCAA. He indicated that he had. He  
5 indicated that on ten to 15 occasions, approximately, he  
6 investigated instances of alleged improper payments made by  
7 runners to college athletes. That, to me, also strikes me as  
8 incredibly noncontroversial and certainly, I don't think,  
9 prejudices the government in any way.

10           The third area was the Rice report, and that is a  
11 question that I should have sustained the objection to.  
12 However, there was no substantive answer, so all we have is the  
13 question. And as this jury's been told many times already,  
14 questions are not evidence, so I'm not going to strike the  
15 questions.

16           I also want to point out, I believe that everyone in  
17 the jury, including the alternates, has some level of college.  
18 There are at least a couple that have master's degrees. There  
19 are two that are trained as lawyers and who practiced as  
20 lawyers for some period of time. This is a smart jury. They  
21 know what the milieu is that we're talking about.

22           The testimony that came in yesterday, again, aside  
23 from the Rice report, which I didn't even know what it was, so  
24 I should have sustained that objection, again, I think is  
25 noncontroversial. The fact that the university profits is a

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1 fact and it is true, and I don't think the government is  
2 prejudiced in any way.

3 Now, having said that, the defense did indicate in  
4 connection with the motions *in limine* that it would not go into  
5 these areas. I think that the extent to which they've entered  
6 these areas is very, very minimal, but they are put on notice  
7 that they should not go into these areas anymore, unless  
8 appropriate on cross-examination.

9 MR. HANEY: Understood, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: OK.

11 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Judge.

12 THE COURT: Now, the second question that we need to  
13 discuss is do you want a curative instruction, and if so,  
14 what's the defense view on it?

15 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, our view would be that it's  
16 unnecessary for the reasons the Court stated, the reasons we've  
17 stated on the record.

18 MR. MOORE: And as I think what the Court has  
19 indicated, the Court believes that the only really improper  
20 question, from the Court's view, was this question about the  
21 Rice report which was not answered. I don't know why we would  
22 give a curative instruction with respect to that.

23 MR. MARK: Your Honor, given your Court's ruling, we  
24 understand your thinking through that. We would not request a  
25 curative instruction at this time. We expect the defense will

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1 follow your Honor's order here and reaffirmation that, while  
2 these questions right now may not be that controversial, if we  
3 keep going there with witness after witness after witness, we  
4 do think it would be a different situation. We might come back  
5 to your Honor at that point in time.

6 THE COURT: I agree. By the way, the defense has  
7 indicated that they will follow my instruction. I'm sure that  
8 in the heat of battle they will overstep, and then we'll deal  
9 with that when it comes.

10 MR. MOORE: We will try -- at least I will speak for  
11 myself. I will try to approach if I think I'm going to  
12 overstep.

13 I will also say that we spent an awful lot of time  
14 yesterday with Mr. Blazer without really ever getting to the  
15 issues that are here in this case. With respect to a lot of  
16 talk about payment of players, etc., if we continue to spend a  
17 lot of time on that, I understand that some limited information  
18 about that is relevant here, but this case is not about paying  
19 players.

20 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I'd be remiss if I did not on  
21 behalf of my client follow up on that. I do not want to engage  
22 in speaking objections. I'm going to follow the Court's  
23 directive. I'm very careful not to do that because I know the  
24 influence that could have on a jury.

25 But we spent a good part of the day yesterday talking



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1 about my client three or four years ago when he was working for  
2 a sports management company engaged in illegal payments or  
3 illicit payments to student athletes. That's not what this  
4 case is about. Effectively, seems like they're trying to retry  
5 the Gatto case that they already won back on October six months  
6 ago. This isn't a case about paying student athletes. This is  
7 a case very specifically about whether or not my client and  
8 Mr. Code paid cash bribes to coaches.

9 Now, I understand they get some 404(b) latitude, and I  
10 think they got their shots in. The jury's understanding it.  
11 But it falls into our theory, in a certain way, that that's  
12 what my client was doing. But to spend several hours, they're  
13 talking eight to ten hours with this guy, to testify to just  
14 present my client in a negative light, I think it's becoming  
15 prejudicial. It's becoming clearly cumulative at this point to  
16 further show my client was paying four years ago, potentially  
17 trying to pay student athletes.

18 Thank you, your Honor.

19 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, just a couple of points on  
20 that. Obviously, the government can put on their case however  
21 the government wants to put on its case. I don't think I heard  
22 a relevance objection to the testimony that I now hear  
23 complaints about.

24 But maybe more importantly, obviously, one of the  
25 issues the defendants have raised is an entrapment defense, and

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1 there's even in opening statements the suggestion that the  
2 government was pushing their clients to do things it didn't  
3 really want to do. So the government is trying to show the  
4 relationship between the defendants and our cooperator and  
5 others involved in the case to show how that relationship  
6 started, and it started with Christian Dawkins, obviously,  
7 reaching out to him to seek his help in paying players. That's  
8 relevant to the case, particularly relevant as I understand the  
9 defense wants to point out that some of those payments went to  
10 players. This is explaining sort of that process and how it  
11 is.

12 So it's clearly relevant. They are not even saying  
13 it's not relevant. They're, frankly, just saying they're sort  
14 of tired of hearing of it. That's fine. Maybe we could --  
15 they could put it on in a different way, but this is the way  
16 we're choosing to put it on.

17 THE COURT: Can I ask you, how many cooperators will  
18 the government be putting on?

19 MR. BOONE: Just two, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Who's the other one?

21 MR. BOONE: Munish Sood is the other one.

22 THE COURT: OK.

23 MR. BOONE: So they're, essentially, the only fact  
24 witnesses in the entire trial. So they're, obviously,  
25 important, and we're going to take a lot of time getting

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1 testimony out of them.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Haney.

3 MR. HANEY: I'd just briefly respond. One's  
4 predisposition, which I know they're trying to establish  
5 through this line of questioning, one's predisposition to pay  
6 players does not satisfy one's predisposition to pay coaches.  
7 Their own witness testified that in all his years of all his  
8 dirty deeds as a dirty football agent, he never paid a coach.  
9 That's what their own witness said. There's a reason why he  
10 didn't pay coaches. It's the same reason why my client didn't  
11 pay coaches. It doesn't make sense. Their own witness is  
12 supportive of the theory that we have of why paying bribes to  
13 coaches doesn't make sense. I think the Court can even  
14 understand from Mr. Blazer's testimony, clearly, he would have  
15 paid anybody to get a client. He testified he didn't pay  
16 coaches. The fact that my client was predisposed to paying a  
17 player or family members, that doesn't support a predisposition  
18 to then pay coaches.

19 MR. MOORE: I would certainly add, your Honor, that  
20 there are two defendants on trial here. As I understand it,  
21 we're going to be treated to another almost two full days of  
22 Mr. Blazer, and he didn't meet my client until June of 2017,  
23 well into his career as an undercover FBI operative. Much of  
24 this information may be unduly prejudicial to my client.  
25 Frankly, I would have filed a severance motion if I thought

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1 that your Honor would have entertained it, but I've had a lot  
2 of experience with severance motions, particularly when I was a  
3 prosecutor. But I think the government would concede, for  
4 example, if we were trying a case against Merl Code, we'd try  
5 this case, even with these cooperators, in about two days. So  
6 some of this information can become more prejudicial with  
7 respect to my client, and so that is the reason why I raised  
8 it.

9 THE COURT: Well, you've raised the issue. Again, I  
10 didn't -- I personally did not see anything in Mr. Blazer's  
11 testimony that I considered to be cumulative. The reason I  
12 asked whether or not he was the only cooperator or one of a  
13 couple of cooperators is because the government is entitled,  
14 because I assume that it's -- you guys are going to come after  
15 him and the government is entitled to have Mr. Blazer tell the  
16 jury through the government's questioning everything bad that  
17 he's ever done. Now, hopefully that will not take another  
18 couple of days, but I think the government is entitled to do  
19 that. Obviously, all of you should be aware of the amount  
20 of -- I have no idea how much evidence you have or how you  
21 intend to put it on. All I know is the parties told me on any  
22 number of occasions that this case would take two weeks. So be  
23 conscious of that.

24 Anything else?

25 MR. MOORE: Just two brief points, your Honor. First

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1 of all, I got an abbreviated response to the two issues that I  
2 raised yesterday, either late last night or this morning. I  
3 don't consider it sufficient, but I am going to respond in  
4 writing. I don't think we're going to need to deal with the  
5 issue until next week when we get to the defense case. So we  
6 will get your Honor some briefing on that issue if need be. So  
7 that's the first point I wish to raise.

8 The second point I would -- it's a question. Does  
9 your Honor require all three lawyers to be in the courtroom all  
10 at the same time, even if you're not cross-examining the  
11 witness? Because I just want to make sure of that because we  
12 might do some dividing and conquering later in this trial if  
13 that is --

14 THE COURT: That's fine.

15 MR. MOORE: -- acceptable to the Court.

16 THE COURT: That's absolutely fine.

17 MR. MOORE: I guess the third question I have, also  
18 for informational purposes, assuming that we get this case to  
19 the jury next week, and Lord knows I hope we do, what is your  
20 Honor's schedule with respect to the jury as they deliberate?  
21 Is it the same schedule, or do we go longer?

22 THE COURT: I am guided by the jury. I tell them from  
23 now on our time is yours or your time is ours. So if you want  
24 to stay after 2:30, if you think that you're getting close and  
25 you want to stay after 2:30, we'll stay as long as you want.

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1 MR. MOORE: OK. Thank you.

2 MR. BOONE: Just minor housekeeping, your Honor.

3 Yesterday, obviously, read a lot of stipulations. Those  
4 stipulations were authenticity stipulations. So we will need  
5 to move into actual evidence the recordings that we're going to  
6 go over today. We already started on one, Government  
7 Exhibit 401. I just want to make sure that's clear.

8 THE COURT: Is there any dispute as to any of those  
9 tapes?

10 MR. HANEY: No, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: So if you could do that in a summary  
12 fashion --

13 MR. HANEY: Yes.

14 THE COURT: -- that would be helpful. Given you tapes  
15 1 through 15, have you seen these before, are they accurate,  
16 you know.

17 MR. BOONE: OK.

18 THE COURT: Any objection to that?

19 MR. MOORE: No, sir, your Honor. I guess the only  
20 other point Mr. Chaney reminded me, and perhaps I should say it  
21 now, I understand that Mr. Blazer had a lot more contact with  
22 Mr. Dawkins than he has with my client. And Mr. Dawkins --  
23 Mr. Blazer was allowed to sort of testify about exactly what he  
24 believed the other party was thinking when he said this or he  
25 said that. I'm going to have issues with that when we get to

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1 Mr. Code because of his very limited involvement with Mr. Code  
2 who he barely knows.

3 THE COURT: I think that the question was not what was  
4 he thinking, what was your understanding?

5 MR. MOORE: What was your understanding?

6 THE COURT: And that's perfectly appropriate in order  
7 to put those conversations in context.

8 MR. MOORE: And I also -- I would understand that when  
9 we get to the defense case and we present tapes, what's good  
10 for the goose is good for the gander, is that right, your  
11 Honor?

12 THE COURT: If the question is what was your  
13 understanding of what the counterparty was saying, absolutely.

14 MR. MOORE: Right. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: OK. Anything else?

16 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, for Chance Miller, the witness  
17 who already testified, may it make sense to just go ahead and  
18 offer officially the exhibits that he went over? Those were  
19 Government Exhibits 1001, 1003, 1004, 1005, and 1006. I think  
20 those actually were already admitted, because I think we put in  
21 the stip that admitted sort of the bulk, all of the business  
22 records documents. My understanding is that we are now going  
23 to ask to admit particular documents as we are discussing them.

24 THE COURT: I thought that was the purpose of the  
25 stipulation. I mean, because you published before the jury at

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1 least one document that was brought in pursuant to those  
2 stipulations, so I just assumed they were all admitted.

3 MR. BOONE: And they were all admitted. I guess what  
4 I want to make clear, it sounds like what we intended to do was  
5 to not admit all of them, but to admit them sort of as we  
6 approach them, as the stip was sort of overinclusive. You were  
7 right that those documents were admitted. I guess what we're  
8 trying to say is going forward, we will be more specific about  
9 which ones actually are going to be before the jury.

10 THE COURT: I am officially confused.

11 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: If I could just clarify very, very  
12 briefly, your Honor. It's an authenticity stip; it's not an  
13 admissibility stip.

14 THE COURT: Then how did we put that one before the  
15 jury?

16 MR. BOONE: We offered it.

17 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: We did offer it. We read the  
18 transcript. It's a little unclear. So we're trying to have a  
19 clean record that exhibits that Mr. Boone just read out are  
20 officially admitted. We are hoping for that. And going  
21 forward, because it's an authenticity stip not an admissibility  
22 stip, we are going to be saying to your Honor, we offer  
23 Government Exhibit Y, Government Exhibit X, just because the  
24 defense -- that's what they wanted to sign, and we don't want  
25 to overstep.



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1 THE COURT: Very well. By the way, I depend on the  
2 parties to keep track of what's in evidence and what's not in  
3 evidence. So please have someone or several people dedicated  
4 to making sure that somebody knows what's in.

5 MR. MOORE: We would also like to -- while the  
6 government doesn't have a ton of witnesses, we would like to  
7 invoke the rule of sequestration. And I know that  
8 Mr. Vourderis is an exception to that rule. I don't know who  
9 UC-1 is and UC-2 is, although we spotted one who folks may  
10 think was UC-1 yesterday. So I would ask the government to  
11 police that and to keep out those folks.

12 MR. BOONE: UC-1 and UC-2 are not going to be here and  
13 have not been here.

14 THE COURT: I don't imagine that any other potential  
15 witness has been in the courtroom during the trial, at least  
16 not during the testimony yesterday.

17 MR. BOONE: There's been a potential summary witness,  
18 who's an FBI agent, who's been helping sort of moving witnesses  
19 back and forth. He's been in occasionally, that's it.

20 THE COURT: OK.

21 MR. MOORE: I would ask that he be excluded.

22 THE COURT: He's a summary witness?

23 MR. MARK: Yeah, he's a summary witness. He was the  
24 same summary witness who also sat at counsel table in the Gatto  
25 trial. He's not going to be testifying other than as a summary

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1 witness, not about his particular factual involvement in this  
2 case. We don't think that it's necessary to sequester him.

3 THE COURT: It's my understanding a summary witness is  
4 someone who somehow summarizes evidence that's already --  
5 testimony and documents that are already in evidence?

6 MR. MARK: Correct, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: That application is denied.

8 MR. MOORE: Yes, your Honor.

9 MR. MARK: Your Honor, I'm just going to note for the  
10 record, as Mr. Moore referenced, after defense raised the issue  
11 of what they thought was the government's failure to comply  
12 with their responses to their *Touhy* request, which, as we know,  
13 your Honor, on the record we thought we had fully complied  
14 prior to, we discussed that with both the FBI and the civil  
15 AUSA who is outside the case and made a more formal response in  
16 light of the Court's ruling precluding what we understood was  
17 the vast majority of the requested testimony.

18 In that response, we asked them to particularly lay  
19 out and identify the specific areas of testimony that they  
20 think is admissible and remain appropriate in light of your  
21 Honor's ruling. And we said that once they identify those  
22 specific areas of testimony, we would then promptly evaluate  
23 their request. And if they did seek to obtain any admissible  
24 testimony, we would work to make those FBI agents available.

25 If what they're actually seeking is further

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1 inadmissible testimony, I think there was some references from  
2 Mr. Moore before that the crux of what they were wanting to do  
3 is sort of why did agents take particular actions. That would  
4 be inadmissible testimony, and then we would further seek to  
5 preclude that, which is exactly the function that *Touhy* serves,  
6 to flesh out exactly what is the testimony so that if there's a  
7 proper application to preclude it, that we can put that before  
8 your Honor.

9 THE COURT: OK.

10 MR. MOORE: I will tell your Honor that I'll probably  
11 be better suited to do what they're asking me to do after we  
12 hear the testimony of Mr. Blazer in its entirety.

13 THE COURT: OK. It's five minutes to 9:30, so let's  
14 check in on the jury, and if the jury is here, we'll get  
15 started at 9:30.

16 Is Mr. Blazer close by?

17 MR. BOONE: Yes, he's in the hallway, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: OK.

19 (Recess)

20 THE COURT: Mr. Boone, I have just one small  
21 recommendation for you.

22 MR. BOONE: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: When you go back and forth from the  
24 transcript to the testimony, when you go back to the  
25 transcript, can you say approximately what line so that it's a

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1 little easier to follow.

2 MR. BOONE: Yes. And, your Honor, what we would like  
3 to ask your permission on is we have prepared binders of the  
4 transcripts for the jury.

5 THE COURT: Wonderful.

6 MR. BOONE: Are we permitted to put them in the jury  
7 box?

8 THE COURT: Absolutely.

9 MR. BOONE: That also will make it easier.

10 THE COURT: Did someone put this up here for me?

11 MS. BUSTILLO: Yes.

12 THE COURT: The jury is here, so let's bring  
13 Mr. Blazer in.

14 (Continued on next page)

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(Jury present)

THE COURT: Everyone please be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, you're going to find a binder in your chairs. Those are the transcripts of some of the conversations that we're going to be going over. I would ask that you not read ahead, that you go only to the tab that we're considering and not read ahead with respect to any later transcripts.

I hope you all had a pleasant evening. I thank you, as always, for being so prompt. I apologize about this morning. It won't happen again.

We will now continue with the direct examination of Mr. Blazer.

Mr. Boone.

MR. BOONE: Thank you, your Honor.

Pursuant to what we discussed this morning, I'd like to offer into evidence the following exhibits that we will cover today:

Government Exhibit 401, Government Exhibit 401T, Government Exhibit 402, Government Exhibit 402T, Government Exhibit 413, Government Exhibit 413T, Government Exhibit 1637, Government Exhibit 501A and 501AT, Government Exhibit 501B and 501BT, Government Exhibit 501C and 501CT, Government Exhibit 501D and 501DT, Government Exhibit 501E and 501ET, Government Exhibit 508A and 508AT, Government Exhibit 508D and

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1 508DT, Government Exhibit 510A1 and 510A1T, Government  
2 Exhibit 510A2 and 510A2T, Government Exhibit 510A3 and 510A3T,  
3 Government Exhibit 510B1 and 510B1T, Government Exhibit 510B2  
4 and 510B2T, Government Exhibit 510B3 and 510B3T, Government  
5 Exhibit 510B5 and 510B5T, and Government Exhibit 510B6 and  
6 510B6T.

7 THE COURT: Any objection?

8 MR. HANEY: May we approach, your Honor?

9 (Continued on next page)

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(At sidebar)

MR. HANEY: Your Honor, our understanding wasn't moving all these exhibits into evidence. Is he moving for admission?

MR. BOONE: Yes.

MR. MOORE: We did not believe that that was our discussion. We agreed to the admissibility of the exhibits from yesterday. I thought that's what he was doing. We've agreed to authenticity. We have not agreed to relevance with respect to all of these calls.

MR. HANEY: Our stipulations are to authenticity. They're not to admissibility.

MR. MOORE: I think he has to move them in item by item, tape by tape.

THE COURT: Do you have -- what were your objections? Do you have real objections to these things going forward? I don't care whether or not you do. I'm just trying to make this as easy as possible for the jury.

MR. MOORE: I guess if I'd known this was about to be done, we could have gone over this and had an answer, a quicker answer, for you. I think many of these tapes are Mr. Haney's tapes, not mine, but the bottom line is some of these tapes we might contend are overly prejudicial, we may might contend there are hearsay portions. So, again, I thought we were doing this tape by tape, exhibit by exhibit.

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1 THE COURT: And I would have thought this would have  
2 been done before trial.

3 MR. MARK: Your Honor, we gave them notice. They  
4 actually asked for notice of what tapes we were going to be  
5 playing with Mr. Blazer, we expect for that exact reason, so we  
6 wouldn't have to waste time going through testimony. So we've  
7 given this to them with plenty of advance notice, and we  
8 haven't heard anything --

9 MR. HANEY: Our agreement was authenticity. We've  
10 also done the same with you with some of our phone calls, and  
11 you've never -- you haven't agreed to admissibility on those  
12 calls either. You've agreed to authenticity only.

13 THE COURT: Why don't we do this.

14 MR. BOONE: One by one.

15 THE COURT: One at a time, and then if there's any  
16 further argument, we can do it at the break.

17 MR. MOORE: We can try to deal with this at break,  
18 yes, sir. I was just surprised, frankly.

19 THE COURT: OK.

20 MR. MOORE: Caught off guard.

21 (Continued on next page)  
22  
23  
24  
25



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Blazer - Direct

1 (In open court; jury present)

2 THE COURT: I will reserve on the admissibility of the  
3 tapes that have been offered thus far.

4 MR. BOONE: Thank you, your Honor.

5 If we could queue up for the witness Government  
6 Exhibit 401. And to help refresh the jury's memory from  
7 yesterday, if we could start from the beginning of that  
8 recording.

9 (Audio played)

10 THE COURT: Could I ask you to stop.

11 Does the jury have 401T?

12 MR. BOONE: It's on the screen, and it should also be  
13 in the binders.

14 THE COURT: OK. I just wanted to let them know the  
15 transcript that's being played now -- or call that's being  
16 played now should be in your binders, 401T. If you want to  
17 read along, you can read along on the transcript. If you want  
18 to look at it on the screen, you can look at it on the screen,  
19 whatever makes you most comfortable. OK.

20 You can continue.

21 (Audio played)

22 MR. BOONE: You can pause here.

23 LOUIS MARTIN BLAZER, Resumed.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION CONTINUED

25 BY MR. BOONE:

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Blazer - Direct

1 Q. Mr. Blazer, just to sort of orient ourselves, what's been  
2 talked about up to this point in this call?

3 A. Well, there's a lot there, so I'll try to explain the best  
4 I can. I was introduced to Christian by way of another  
5 individual that I was introduced to. As I said yesterday, it  
6 was an old football agent that I've been dealing with for  
7 years, introduced me to a guy in Atlanta named Rashan Michel  
8 who did a lot of business in the basketball space. And I  
9 didn't know Rashan very well, and I make reference to that in  
10 the -- in the call. And Rashan connected me with Christian and  
11 set up a meeting in September of 2015 where we had just kind of  
12 laid out -- introduced each other and laid out kind of what we  
13 did. And Christian was in the basketball space, and I had come  
14 from football, interested in being -- in working with some  
15 basketball players, at this time, again, working, cooperating  
16 with the federal government.

17 And so we left that meeting in September of 2017 --  
18 2015 and just didn't reconnect for -- until early December of  
19 2015. The reason that we both kind of agreed to was that --  
20 and, again, this was in conversations that I had with  
21 investigators with the federal government as well,  
22 cooperating -- that Rashan Michel was kind of confusing the  
23 whole situation because when he was talking to me about it and  
24 Christian needed money for these players, Rashan wanted  
25 everything to go through him. So later in the call, I say,

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Blazer - Direct

1 5,000, 7,500, Rashan was asking me to give him money and then  
2 get it to Christian, which nobody was very comfortable with.

3 So Christian sent that text that we had spoken about  
4 yesterday, just trying to reconnect with me, and so we did.  
5 And this call happened, and what's going on later on in the  
6 call is that Christian is basically saying, I kind of felt the  
7 same way you felt as far as Rashan confusing the whole  
8 situation, so I wanted to come to you directly and see if we  
9 can work together. And then he recognizing the fact that I had  
10 worked more in the football space and I was more familiar with  
11 that, he goes into Andy Miller Sports, which was the agency  
12 that he was working for, and a lot of the recruits and  
13 prospects that he was working on and the money that he needed  
14 for those prospects and trying to enlist me to come in with him  
15 and provide money for those individuals.

16 What he was talking about was that there were just --  
17 there was a lot. There were a lot of recruits. They were  
18 really trying to build their business up to a certain number of  
19 high-level NBA players. And he was looking for other  
20 resources, meaning money from individuals to try to spread out  
21 over these individuals that he was recruiting. And he would  
22 compare it to football, something that I was aware of, where in  
23 football you would have a good two or three years when a client  
24 was in -- when a player was in college that you could develop  
25 that relationship with them before they -- meaning, develop a

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Blazer - Direct

1 relationship, part of that, in my experience, was paying them  
2 to build that relationship.

3 And so he was comparing that to football, saying that  
4 basketball, it wasn't the same. You had a situation where you  
5 really needed to get into high school aged basketball players  
6 because they would be coming into the pros, especially the very  
7 elite ones, they would be coming into the pros for one year and  
8 then they were coming out. So you needed to make a decision to  
9 invest in them very early on.

10 So the gist of the phone call was to come to me and  
11 say, I know Rashan confused the situation. I'm looking for  
12 some help. I'm looking for some money to invest in these  
13 potential recruits. I will get the representation end, meaning  
14 he will get the representation end, he'll be their agent at  
15 Andy Miller Sports, and I'll give you the business on the  
16 financial or business management side.

17 MR. BOONE: Before we play the next part, just to  
18 orient the jury, I believe we're around line 24 on page 6, and  
19 if we could continue with the call, please.

20 (Audio played)

21 MR. BOONE: We can pause here.

22 Q. What are you explaining to Dawkins in this segment?

23 A. This was -- this was December of 2015, and at that time  
24 I -- and, again, the way Rashan was introduced to me through a  
25 football agent, it was a -- it's a very small community,

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1 especially the football agents and financial advisers and that  
2 whole -- and just really very, very competitive, as is  
3 basketball when it comes to the business of working with these  
4 elite athletes. So December of 2015, I wasn't sure how much  
5 Christian knew, even though no SEC charges had been filed or  
6 anything like that on me yet, but there were whispers out there  
7 about the movie stuff and what had happened with that and that  
8 there were some clients that were not happy and -- and I wasn't  
9 sure how much at the time Christian knew about that.

10 So what I was saying in this piece is that -- and we  
11 had actually discussed a little bit of it when we met in  
12 Atlanta that time -- is that I didn't need to be their  
13 financial adviser. I didn't need to handle their investments.  
14 I could do more of the business management side of things for  
15 them where I would pay their bills or create budgets or help  
16 them with their houses or coordinate their tax stuff and -- or  
17 if it was just maybe an insurance investment type situation.

18 So what we had discussed there was that there were a  
19 variety of ways that we could work together, and it wouldn't  
20 necessarily be the financial adviser end because, again, I  
21 wasn't sure how much Christian knew about my problems with  
22 that, with that movie/music investment situation. So I was  
23 just telling him there.

24 Then there's one point whenever I say about having  
25 some basketball players overseas, and I really didn't have

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1 anybody overseas. But when you were talking to somebody, you  
2 never really admitted that you didn't have, so that was not  
3 true either.

4 MR. BOONE: I believe we left off around line 13 of  
5 page 8. If we could continue.

6 (Audio played)

7 MR. BOONE: We could pause here.

8 Q. Now, Mr. Blazer, you just said in this phone call you  
9 referred to having someone on the investment side. What did  
10 you mean by that?

11 A. There was a -- my partner who handled the investment  
12 management side at the time was Munish Sood in Princeton, New  
13 Jersey. So I was referring to Munish could handle the  
14 investment management piece.

15 Q. Did you know if Munish wanted to be involved?

16 A. Yes, Munish wanted to be involved. Munish had already been  
17 working with a number of my athletes on the NFL side, so I was  
18 pretty sure Munish wanted to be involved in handling the  
19 investments.

20 Q. You testified earlier that Munish Sood was a part of Blazer  
21 Capital earlier, correct?

22 A. Yes. Well, it was actually Blazer Investment Advisers was  
23 the investment advisory arm, and when I met Munish and forged a  
24 relationship and partnership with him, Blazer Investment  
25 Advisors became Princeton Blazer Advisers. So Munish was the

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1 person who kind of handled the investment advisory piece.

2 Q. Was he at all involved in your fraud regarding the  
3 mismanagement of client funds?

4 A. No.

5 MR. BOONE: If we could continue.

6 (Audio played)

7 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

8 Q. There's a mention of getting a 1 percent on insurance.  
9 What did you understand that to mean?

10 A. Well, it was -- what I understood, it was two different  
11 pieces. The business management, what Christian was referring  
12 to, would be, say, 1 percent. So if a client made a million  
13 dollars, then to manage the business end of it, the business  
14 management, typically in the business it would be, to pay the  
15 bills and to manage the whole lifestyle side of things,  
16 1 percent. You'd make \$10,000 a year. So that was the  
17 business management side. Then I think he was referring to  
18 maybe doing an investment, like an insurance policy that was an  
19 investment insurance policy.

20 So there were two different things. One was the  
21 business management at 1 percent, and then the other was the  
22 insurance investment.

23 Q. These are potential fees you can make off of a client?

24 A. Potential fees, yes.

25 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 13 of page 10.

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1 If we could continue.

2 (Audio played)

3 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

4 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he asked you  
5 what you would be comfortable doing on a monthly basis?

6 A. What I would be comfortable paying to him on a monthly  
7 basis to give to players or their families in exchange for them  
8 coming back to me for the business management or financial  
9 business management services basically.

10 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 17. If we  
11 could continue.

12 (Audio played)

13 MR. BOONE: Pause there.

14 Q. What are you explaining to Dawkins in this segment?

15 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I would object to relevancy.  
16 This will be my only objection to this whole line of  
17 questioning.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

20 A. What I was explaining to him was I just sort of -- at the  
21 time I was using my own money on -- to do this. And,  
22 basically, I was just saying if I could, if we could pick out a  
23 couple situations where we could sort of mitigate those costs  
24 and that we were looking for players who were ready to -- ready  
25 to give you a return on investment; in other words, committing



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1 the money to certain situations where the players were not  
2 in -- not of high school age, where they were ready to come out  
3 in the NBA draft quicker.

4 Q. And you said you were using your own money. What did you  
5 mean by that?

6 A. Well, before I started working with the FBI and they would  
7 give me money to make payments, I -- at the direction of the  
8 investigators with the U.S. Attorney's Office, I would -- I was  
9 using my own funds to do that.

10 MR. BOONE: I believe we're on line 5 of page 12. If  
11 we could continue.

12 (Audio played)

13 MR. BOONE: We can pause there.

14 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he said  
15 towards the end that he was going to take a look at his  
16 recruiting list and shoot you some names?

17 A. Just in line with what we had discussed and what I had  
18 requested, that we try to pinpoint a number of individuals who  
19 were worth giving money to and who were close to coming out  
20 into the NBA draft, who were close to turning pro. Christian  
21 was going to look at the list of recruits that he had, the  
22 people that he was working on that sort of fit that  
23 description.

24 Q. What happened after this call?

25 A. After this call, we did meet in Atlanta, I believe on the

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1 10th of December.

2 Q. Did you continue to talk with Dawkins about what you just  
3 testified to, helping fund money for players?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Did you have a call with Dawkins on or about December 31?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. What did you discuss?

8 A. On that call we discussed continuation of what we had  
9 discussed here, some of the recruits that he was working on,  
10 and also sort of making a plan to get together again and money  
11 that he needed that we had discussed. And, also, we had  
12 discussed him speaking with a coach at South Carolina, Lamont  
13 Evans, and me taking over payments that he was making to  
14 Lamont.

15 Q. Did you record that call?

16 A. I did.

17 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers that  
18 call, which is Government Exhibit 402, and the related  
19 transcript, which is 402T.

20 THE COURT: Any objection?

21 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: OK. That exhibit will be received.

23 (Government's Exhibits 402 and 402T received in  
24 evidence)

25 THE COURT: Does the jury have it?

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1 MR. BOONE: The jury should have 402T in their  
2 binders, yes.

3 THE COURT: Very well.

4 MR. BOONE: Ms. Bustillo, when you're ready, if you  
5 could play that call, please.

6 (Audio played)

7 MR. BOONE: You can pause right here. Thank you.

8 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be discussing with you  
9 at this point?

10 A. So at this point Christian is talking to me about what he  
11 has going on from a recruiting standpoint. And kind of in line  
12 with the previous discussion, he is discussing something that  
13 might fit into what we had talked about, in other words, a  
14 player who would be ready to come into the NBA relatively soon  
15 and that was worth me investing in, paying money to him to get  
16 to this player. He's explaining the situation where the  
17 player, Diamond Stone from Maryland, was working with a  
18 different financial adviser, in other words, a different  
19 financial adviser was already paying this player, and that kind  
20 of fell through. Something happened and they had kind of had a  
21 falling out. So there might be an opportunity for Christian to  
22 meet with this player, see what's going on there, step in and  
23 we could start paying him, and then Christian could turn his  
24 business or financial relationship over to me.

25 MR. BOONE: I believe we left off around line 13 of

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1 page 3. If we could begin from there, please.

2 (Audio played)

3 MR. BOONE: You could pause here.

4 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be referring to when he  
5 mentioned going to South Carolina?

6 A. We had had discussions beforehand about the fact that he  
7 was paying a coach from South Carolina, Lamont Evans, for the  
8 relationships that he had with players, one of which was a  
9 South Carolina player named PJ Dozier. And the coach was  
10 Lamont Evans. And Christian had suggested that if we -- if I  
11 wanted to take over payments that he was making to the coach,  
12 that he would make that introduction. And he says that he  
13 basically told the coach that the money now, from now on, would  
14 be coming from me, and we just needed to try to get down to  
15 South Carolina at some point and memorialize the deal and meet  
16 the coach.

17 Q. What was your understanding as to why he was paying the  
18 coach?

19 A. He was paying the coach for -- for the relationship and to  
20 get the coach's players, whether players the coach was  
21 recruiting or current players on the South Carolina basketball  
22 roster, to be directed to his agency, to be directed to Andy  
23 Miller Sports.

24 Q. You mentioned a player at South Carolina by the name of PJ  
25 Dozier, is that correct?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Earlier in your testimony, we went over a text exchange  
3 between you and Dawkins. Do you recall if PJ Dozier was  
4 mentioned in that text exchange?

5 A. Yes, PJ Dozier was mentioned in that text exchange.

6 Q. And what was your understanding of why Dawkins was going to  
7 stop paying and was giving you an opportunity to sort of pick  
8 up where he left off?

9 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, objection to foundation.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 A. My understanding was that Christian thought that it would  
12 be a good opportunity for me on the business and/or financial  
13 advisory end to build a relationship with this coach so that,  
14 in addition to the coach sending the players to him on the  
15 representation end as agent, that I would now have a  
16 relationship with the coach so he could send PJ Dozier and  
17 players like PJ Dozier who came through South Carolina my way  
18 for the business and financial advisory services.

19 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around line 18 of  
20 page 4. If we could continue from there.

21 (Audio played)

22 MR. BOONE: If you could pause here.

23 Q. Now, there are some numbers being tossed around, 25. What  
24 do you understand Dawkins to be referring to?

25 A. This was in reference to a discussion, and I think there

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1 was a text in there as well, but we had talked about that  
2 budget that Christian had proposed me working with across the  
3 board sort of for the year. And the total number was \$40,000  
4 for the year that I was going to commit to Christian to help  
5 him with recruiting to pay these players and/or their families  
6 or coaching relationships like he had with Lamont Evans. And,  
7 basically, so what we broke it down to is 20 or 25, which was  
8 \$8,000 a month, roughly, 24, \$25,000, for the first part of the  
9 year, and then that would help him with recruiting that he  
10 needed. And then we did discussed an additional \$15,000 in  
11 addition to the 25, which came up to \$40,000, for grass roots,  
12 for the grass roots, investment in the grass roots, the paying  
13 the coaches and players on the grass roots level for those  
14 relationships.

15 Q. And, again, what do you mean by grass roots?

16 A. Again, grass roots is -- grass roots basketball is high  
17 school-aged travel basketball, really good players, all from  
18 all around a certain area. And college coaches typically  
19 recruit those players for their colleges from grass roots.

20 Q. So, just to be clear, you were talking about spending a  
21 portion of money towards college players and college coaches  
22 and another portion towards high school-aged players, is that  
23 correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 MR. BOONE: If we could continue, I believe we're on

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1 line 8, around line 8, page 5.

2 (Audio played)

3 BY MR. BOONE:

4 Q. What happened after this call?

5 A. After -- after this call, I believe our next meeting was in  
6 Atlanta, and we drove to South Carolina to meet with Lamont  
7 Evans.

8 Q. Do you remember when, approximately, you drove with Dawkins  
9 to South Carolina?

10 A. Yes, I believe it was early March, I think March 5 of 2016.

11 Q. Other than Dawkins and yourself, who, if anybody else, went  
12 with you?

13 A. My old partner, my partner on the financial management  
14 side, investment advisory, Munish Sood.

15 Q. Why was he going?

16 A. I sort of asked Munish to come along because I -- I knew  
17 Munish would be interested in this, in the business of dealing  
18 with the potential NBA players as clients on the investment  
19 advisory side, in addition to the fact that Munish had capital,  
20 Munish had money, that he could help with the payment of the  
21 coach and some of the other things that Christian was  
22 discussing, like the payment of players. So I made the  
23 introduction of Munish to Christian, and we decided to all go  
24 to this meeting in South Carolina.

25 Q. Just to sort of clear what you've referenced earlier, when

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1 you first started cooperating with the government, were you  
2 working solely with the U.S. Attorney's Office?

3 A. I was working solely with the U.S. Attorney's Office, yes.

4 Q. Did at some point that change?

5 A. Approximately October/November of 2016.

6 Q. Then who were you working with?

7 A. Then I was working with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the  
8 FBI.

9 Q. You testified earlier that once the FBI came on board is  
10 when you then had funds to make the payments you've discussed?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. What was the purpose of the trip to South Carolina?

13 A. The purpose of the trip to South Carolina was Christian was  
14 going to make the introduction of Lamont Evans, who was an  
15 assistant basketball coach at South Carolina, to Munish Sood  
16 and me.

17 Q. What ultimately happened on the trip?

18 A. We ultimately met with Lamont Evans and discussed a number  
19 of different things and came away with a good relationship with  
20 Lamont where we agreed to take over -- Munish and I agreed to  
21 take over the payments that Christian was making to Lamont.

22 Q. Had you previously met Evans?

23 A. No, I'd never heard of Lamont Evans prior to Christian  
24 introducing us.

25 MR. BOONE: If we could show, just for the witness for



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1 identification purposes, Government Exhibit 2105.

2 Q. Do you recognize this document?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What is it?

5 A. That is Lamont Evans.

6 Q. Is that a picture of Lamont Evans?

7 A. Yes, it's a picture of Lamont Evans, yeah.

8 Q. It's a fair and accurate depiction of Lamont Evans?

9 A. It is, yes.

10 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers  
11 Government Exhibit 2105.

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: 2105 will be received.

15 (Government's Exhibit 2105 received in evidence)

16 MR. BOONE: If we could publish for the jury, please?

17 THE COURT: You may.

18 BY MR. BOONE:

19 Q. Now, the meeting you took in South Carolina, did you record  
20 that meeting?

21 A. I did, yes.

22 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers a  
23 recording of that meeting. It's Government Exhibit 501A and  
24 the transcript is 501AT.

25 THE COURT: Any objection?

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1 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: 501A and AT will be received.

3 (Government's Exhibits 501A and 501AT received in  
4 evidence)

5 MR. BOONE: Ms. Bustillo, if you could play that for  
6 us, please.

7 (Audio played)

8 MR. BOONE: We could pause here.

9 Q. First of all, where are you during this recording?

10 A. We are in a restaurant in a hotel in Columbia, South  
11 Carolina.

12 Q. Who has been talking so far in the portion we played?

13 A. So far, basically, Christian and Lamont Evans.

14 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 21. If you  
15 could go back just a little bit and then continue playing.

16 (Audio played)

17 MR. BOONE: If we could pause here.

18 Q. Who's talking in this portion?

19 A. Lamont Evans.

20 Q. What did you understand him to be talking about?

21 A. I -- from that I gathered that Lamont was saying there are  
22 some programs, like Michigan State with Tom Izzo, where those  
23 head coaches, those coaches are there for a long time, 20  
24 years. They're there forever. He was saying -- and then there  
25 are schools like South Carolina and others where it's not like

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1 that. The coaches are in and out. Four years in, four years  
2 out. So he was making the distinction, in my opinion, between  
3 some of the elite college basketball programs and some that  
4 weren't as -- as traditionally elite.

5 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 9, if we could  
6 continue.

7 (Audio played)

8 MR. BOONE: If we could pause here.

9 Q. What do you understand Dawkins and Evans to be discussing  
10 here?

11 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, object to what he knows Evans  
12 to be discussing on foundational grounds.

13 THE COURT: Ask another question, Mr. Boone.

14 MR. BOONE: Sure.

15 Q. The recording we're going over is a conversation you had  
16 with Lamont Evans, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Approximately how long did that conversation last?

19 A. The whole conversation?

20 Q. The whole conversation.

21 A. Probably an hour, 45 minutes to an hour, hour and a half,  
22 somewhere in there.

23 Q. Subsequent to this meeting, did you have further  
24 conversations with Lamont Evans?

25 A. Before, no. Afterwards, yes.

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1 Q. Did you have meetings with Lamont Evans or calls with  
2 Lamont Evans that lasted over the course of, say, over a year?

3 MR. HANEY: Objection. Leading.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 A. Yes, afterwards, yes.

6 Q. So based on those conversations with Lamont Evans that  
7 you've had, which sounds like several conversations, what did  
8 you understand him to be referring to here when he and Dawkins  
9 are talking?

10 MR. HANEY: Objection as to foundation, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

13 A. I mean, can I --

14 Q. Sorry. Just to orient you where we are, there's talk of  
15 Georgetown, Tennessee, North Carolina, and recruiting.

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. HANEY: Objection to the form of the question.  
18 That's not a question. He's testifying.

19 THE COURT: He's just orienting him to where in the  
20 transcript he wants him to focus.

21 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

22 A. Lamont in that piece was talking about how difficult it is  
23 to recruit at South Carolina because you have so much talent.  
24 There's so much talent in that area, but there are so many  
25 really high-level schools like North Carolina and Duke and NC

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1 State and even schools like Georgetown coming in and trying to  
2 recruit the same players that Lamont is trying to recruit for  
3 South Carolina.

4 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 8 of page 3.  
5 If we could continue, please.

6 (Audio played)

7 MR. BOONE: Pause here. Thank you.

8 Q. In this segment, what did you understand Evans to be  
9 discussing?

10 A. Again, sort of a continuation of the recruiting side of  
11 things and some of the individuals that he was -- that he was  
12 trying to recruit, and he names a few of those individuals.  
13 And then at the end of that piece, he talks about how one  
14 recruit, how one -- bringing one player into a program, one  
15 high-level recruit can really change the program. And at the  
16 same time, Christian is trying to explain as well the  
17 significance of that with a coach like Lamont, how Lamont can  
18 influence that.

19 Q. What was your understanding, if any, as to why Evans was  
20 telling you this?

21 MR. HANEY: Objection. Speculation, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Sustained.

23 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

24 MR. BOONE: If we could go back a little bit, and if  
25 we could begin, I believe we're around line 20.

J4OHDaw1

Blazer - Direct

1 (Audio played)

2 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

3 Q. You mentioned that's great to you to Evans. What did you  
4 mean by that?

5 A. Well, Lamont, prior to me saying that, was basically saying  
6 and Christian was talking about South Carolina's record the  
7 year before, and they had -- basically were 500. They didn't  
8 do all that well. Lamont recruits a player like PJ Dozier. PJ  
9 Dozier comes in, and all of a sudden the -- the record is much,  
10 much greater and the team's doing much better.

11 And so what I'm saying in this piece is that Lamont is  
12 basically selling me on the value of him as a recruiter and a  
13 coach to get me to understand how -- how he can change things  
14 by recruiting the right player, and he's using it as an example  
15 here that he recruited PJ Dozier. That he brought this recruit  
16 in, and it did some great things for the program. And I say,  
17 well, that's great for you because of sort of upward mobility.  
18 If he recruited this player and this player changed the program  
19 for the better, then that's going to be a great reflection on  
20 Lamont's job that he's doing in South Carolina and that would,  
21 hopefully, propel him to a higher level in college basketball  
22 coaching ranks.

23 (Continued on next page)

24

25

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: I believe around line 20, or around line  
2 23, page 5, just go back a little bit to catch where we just  
3 left off.

4 (Audio played)

5 Q. Now, in this segment Dawkins says, "Agents obviously have  
6 influence. You got to get the college coaches too." What did  
7 you understand him to mean by that?

8 A. Well, kind of prior to that Christian is talking about the  
9 fact that Lamont brought in PJ and they know that and kind of  
10 to my point that saying, Lamont, that's good for you.  
11 Christian is basically reinforcing that, saying, The people  
12 here know that you did that.

13 And then to answer your question, Christian is saying  
14 for me, for us, in the -- what I was posing as a business  
15 financial adviser with Munish Sood with me, Christian is  
16 basically saying you guys want the financial management and the  
17 business management side, dealing with me as an agent is great  
18 but you have to be dealing with the college coaches too. And  
19 if you're not, then it's like you're skipping a step. Like  
20 you've got to be dealing with college coaches. You're skipping  
21 over a crucial step in trying to establish relationships,  
22 business relationships with these players if you're not dealing  
23 with the college coach.

24 Q. And Dawkins also mentions on coming to him, talking to him  
25 about PJ, "Well fuck you need to be talking to him."

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1           What did you understand him to mean by that? This is  
2 lines 15 to 17 on page 6.

3 A. Basically if Christian as the agent is talking to Lamont  
4 Evans about PJ Dozier, a player at South Carolina, then we too,  
5 Munish, the financial adviser, business adviser need to be  
6 talking to Lamont Evans too about PJ.

7           MR. BOONE: Please continue from there.

8           (Audio played)

9 Q. What did you understand Evans to be saying there?

10 A. Lamont is saying this relationship that he has with  
11 Christian is not a casual fly-by-night, just met him in a club  
12 and introduced himself. The relationship that Lamont had with  
13 Christian is one of trust, that he trusts Christian and that  
14 they've got a long-standing, great relationship. So making me  
15 feel more comfortable with the relationship that Christian and  
16 Lamont had.

17 Q. Before we move on, if we could go back to page 6 of the  
18 transcript. I'm looking at the very last lines, 23, 24.  
19 Dawkins says, "You know what I'm saying? We can help."

20           What did you understand him to mean by "we can help"?

21           If anything?

22 A. Pardon me?

23 Q. I just said if anything.

24 A. Just in the context I just had to -- from what I remember  
25 is well, he's saying you -- agents, we can help but you've got



J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 to -- the college coach relationship is important. He's  
2 saying, you know what I'm saying, we can help, meaning agents  
3 can help you. But Lamont Evans can help you more or the -- the  
4 same or more.

5 Q. What we just went over, is that just a portion of the  
6 conversation you had with Lamont Evans?

7 A. It is, yes.

8 Q. And you said earlier you believe your conversation with him  
9 lasted, I think you said over an hour-and-a-half; is that  
10 correct?

11 A. Somewhere around there, yes. It was a fairly long lunch,  
12 over lunch.

13 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government wants to offer  
14 other portions of that conversation starting with Government  
15 Exhibit 501C and the related transcript which is 501CT.

16 THE COURT: Any objection?

17 MR. HANEY: No objection.

18 THE COURT: Very well 501C and 501CT will be received.

19 (Government's Exhibits 501C and 501CT received in  
20 evidence)

21 MR. BOONE: Ms. Bustillo, when you're ready you can  
22 begin playing that for us, please. Thank you.

23 (Audio played)

24 Q. Now, what -- during what time period of the meeting was  
25 this segment occurring?

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 A. I think we had finished or were wrapping up lunch and sort  
2 of heading out and we had gotten up and we kind of walked  
3 towards the entrance/exit of the restaurant.

4 Q. In that portion Dawkins mentioned there being like five  
5 PJs. What did you understand him to mean by that?

6 A. That dealing with -- at South Carolina and dealing with a  
7 coach like Lamont Evans who had PJ Dozier right now as a  
8 recruit in a player was great, but Lamont and South Carolina,  
9 Lamont was going to have five players come through like PJ  
10 Dozier, of that caliber. So building a long-term relationship  
11 with Lamont, you got PJ now but there was a pipeline of players  
12 like PJ that were going to come through. And that was the  
13 benefit of dealing with Lamont Evans, giving money to Lamont  
14 Evans. That was the benefit of doing that. Because you had a  
15 pipeline of players that was going to come through and they  
16 were going to come your way for -- my way for the business  
17 management, financial management.

18 Q. And what did you understand Dawkins to mean when he said,  
19 "the good thing about fucking with college coaches is good  
20 players every year, buddy"?

21 A. It's in line with the five PJs. The good thing about if  
22 you're paying a college coach like Lamont and you're building  
23 that relationship with him, then you're going to have, at a  
24 school like South Carolina, you're going to have players like  
25 PJ Dozier every year that Lamont is going to have influence

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 over and he's going to turn your way for business.

2 MR. BOONE: If we can continue to play the recording.

3 (Audio played)

4 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be discussing in this  
5 segment of the conversation?

6 A. Well, it was really Christian and Lamont talking about --  
7 and I came from the football space so this wasn't really -- so  
8 it was being explained to me, in my opinion, that he was  
9 talking about the -- one particular recruit that they had had  
10 referenced that Lamont was working with or had signed for South  
11 Carolina. And what Christian was sort of adding the value to  
12 me in and explaining was that not only does a coach like Lamont  
13 Evans have the ability to help you identify and will take these  
14 recruits and turn them your way for the business management  
15 services but also a guy like Lamont is in a position to  
16 identify, almost mitigate the costs of what you might need to  
17 give to the player, the money that you might need to give to  
18 the player or the family. And he references a really good  
19 player who doesn't understand the value, his value yet.

20 So Lamont was going to be able to, per Christian,  
21 bring us into situations like that and say you guys can pay me  
22 and then I can tell you this player over here just needs  
23 \$5,000, pay his phone bill, pay a little bit here or there and  
24 I could really save you money because he doesn't understand  
25 what his value is. He doesn't know what the return on

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 investment to you is going to be at this point. I can identify  
2 as a coach -- I can identify those type situations and not only  
3 bring that relationship back to you but whatever you need to  
4 invest money in that situation, that family, that player, I can  
5 save you money there as well, so increase your potential return  
6 on that investment. That's what I took that to mean.

7 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around line 22. If  
8 we could just backup a little bit to orient ourselves and then  
9 move forward.

10 (Audio played)

11 Q. Who was just talking?

12 A. Munish Sood.

13 Q. And what was he discussing?

14 A. He was making -- he was just reinforcing the point that  
15 Christian and Lamont just discussed and in reference to  
16 basically saying that he used to fly coach whenever he would go  
17 somewhere and then when he started flying first class it was  
18 very difficult for him to go back to coach because he knew what  
19 flying first class was like. And it was just in reference to  
20 Dwayne Huell and the recruit that they were talking about not  
21 being -- not really understanding what his value was and not  
22 being exposed to what else was out there. So we were in a  
23 position dealing with Lamont Evans to be able to take advantage  
24 of that. And Munish was just referencing that in an analogy.

25 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around line 10, page

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Blazer - Direct

1 3. If we could continue.

2 (Audio played)

3 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining here?

4 A. In the first part of that piece of dialogue he's just  
5 referencing, again, the fact that he can -- in dealing with  
6 being involved with coaches, paying the coaches you can, again,  
7 mitigate the risks or mitigate the amount of money that you  
8 have to commit to a situation before it gets out of hand.

9 And then Christian talks about the difference between  
10 head coaches in college basketball and the assistant coaches.  
11 And he makes reference to with head coaches getting involved  
12 with this payment situation, one, they won't do it because  
13 they're making too much money; the head coaches are making way  
14 too much money in a major college basketball program and, also,  
15 it's too risky for them. So it's not the college coaches --  
16 it's not the head coaches in college basketball that you want  
17 to focus on paying. Like Lamont Evans, it's the assistant  
18 coaches, like Lamont Evans, you want to focus on the assistant  
19 coaches who aren't making as much money and who are more  
20 hands-on with the players and are willing to take the risk more  
21 than the head coach at South Carolina, Frank Martin, I believe.

22 MR. BOONE: If we could backup a little bit and go  
23 forward, please.

24 (Audio played)

25 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean, "It falls on the

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Blazer - Direct

1 assistants and if they don't deliver then they're fired"?

2 A. He's meaning, to me meaning that he -- again, the head  
3 coaches versus assistant coaches. Head coaches aren't willing  
4 to take money for a variety of reasons. But the business of  
5 recruiting players and bringing players to the program and  
6 taking money to do whatever is needed to be done falls on the  
7 assistant coaches to do that. And if those assistant coaches  
8 don't recruit the players to bring to that program and elevate  
9 that college basketball program, then they just get fired.

10 Q. What do you mean by "do what needs to be done"?

11 A. What I mean by that is paying the recruits, the assistant  
12 coach is making payments or payments or taking care of whatever  
13 financial needs a recruiter, his family asks for, to come to  
14 that -- to come to that program -- to make a decision to come  
15 to that program. To incentivize that recruiter/player to come  
16 to the program.

17 MR. BOONE: If we could continue.

18 (Audio played)

19 Q. What did you understand Evans to be talking about there?

20 A. There he's, again, making a reference to the elevation of  
21 an assistant coach to a head coach and the money. And in that  
22 piece he's referencing all you got to do is look in the media  
23 guide and take a look at the coach's wife and when that coach  
24 is there for a couple of years look at how his wife changes.  
25 And he means that -- he's saying that the coach's wife maybe

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Blazer - Direct

1 has more expensive clothes or got surgery or something like  
2 that and he's just referencing an assistant coach's role and  
3 then the money when you elevate from an assistant coach to a  
4 head coach and how that life changes financially for a college  
5 coach at that level.

6 MR. BOONE: I believe we're at line 10, page 5. If we  
7 could continue.

8 (Audio played)

9 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he said  
10 "That's the grind you have to go through"?

11 A. He's explaining in reference to someone like Lamont Evans  
12 who was an assistant coach and is just actively, actively  
13 recruiting players and needs money to recruit those players and  
14 has to find people like me and like Christian at the time to  
15 give him or provide him with the money that he needs to  
16 incentivize these recruits to make a decision to strongly  
17 consider coming to South Carolina.

18 So he's saying that that recruiting and what that  
19 recruiting entails financially, paying these recruits to  
20 incentivize to come is the grind that an assistant coach needs  
21 to go through in hopes that he will become a head coach and  
22 then he really won't have to do that anymore.

23 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean from line 12 where  
24 he said, "You got to shoulder that burden and kind of take it  
25 in chip"?

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1 A. It's the burden that an assistant coach in college  
2 basketball needs to take, the burden of recruiting and finding  
3 the monetary resources needed to bring top recruits to the  
4 program. And they have to do it. If they don't want to be  
5 fired or they have any hopes of being a head coach at a  
6 program, they've got to shoulder the burden and take it on the  
7 chin for a certain number of years until they can elevate to  
8 that position hopefully.

9 MR. BOONE: If we could continue.

10 (Audio played)

11 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining in  
12 reference to PJ?

13 A. He's referencing PJ Dozier there, the player at South  
14 Carolina. And what he's explaining to Munish and I was that if  
15 you had PJ Dozier in here right now and we asked him, PJ, who  
16 should I talk to about your stuff, meaning your business, he's  
17 not going to say Frank Martin, the head coach of South  
18 Carolina, he's going to say Lamont Evans, the assistant coach  
19 because Lamont is the guy that's brought him and Lamont  
20 financially or otherwise has taken care of everything that PJ's  
21 needed.

22 So Christian is referencing, in my opinion, the  
23 difference between who has influence over a player like PJ  
24 Dozier. Is it the head coach or the assistant coach? And he's  
25 saying it's the assistant coach, Lamont Evans.



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Blazer - Direct

1 Q. And what did you understand Dawkins to mean -- I'm looking  
2 at lines 2 and 3 of page 7, "Your head coach, he's just a  
3 figurehead basically"?

4 A. I think by that he meant that the head coach is not really  
5 in touch with the players necessarily and isn't privy to what  
6 has to happen, how the cake is baked or I think he's -- he's  
7 basically saying it's not the head coach that really knows what  
8 is going on, it's assistant coaches who really are in touch  
9 with the players. And, again, as Christian said, that grind,  
10 what needs to be done to recruit top players at a program. The  
11 head coach is kind of hands off with that stuff.

12 MR. BOONE: OK. If we can continue.

13 (Audio played)

14 Q. What did you understand Evans to mean when he said he feels  
15 like he's done people's job for them?

16 MR. HANEY: Objection to foundation, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Overruled.

18 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

19 THE WITNESS: First, he's complimenting Christian and  
20 just saying that Christian works really, really hard and,  
21 again, kind of establishing the trust and mentions that  
22 Christian, again, is somebody that he trusts and works really  
23 hard. But Lamont is saying I've done other people in  
24 Christian's business, which is the agent management  
25 representation, he's saying that I've been the one that has to

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Blazer - Direct

1     come out-of-pocket to pay these recruits and recruit these  
2     players with no assistance, with no help and then they go and  
3     are represented by some agent who really hasn't done anything  
4     to help me. So I've been doing the job for them.

5             He meant by that that Christian has done the work and  
6     has paid him and has built a relationship with him and sort of  
7     earned that trust. That's what I got out of that.

8             THE COURT: It's now eleven o'clock, ladies and  
9     gentlemen, so we're going to take our first break. It will be  
10    fifteen minutes. So please be prepared to come out at quarter  
11    after the hour. Do not discuss the case.

12            (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: Please be seated. Any issues for me?

3 Mr. Blazer, do you want to step down.

4 (Witness excused)

5 MR. CHANEY: We don't have any issues.

6 MR. HANEY: No, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: OK. Fifteen minutes. Don't be late.

8 (Recess)

9 (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Mr. Boone.

3 MR. BOONE: Thank you.

4 I believe where we left off, we were going through  
5 Government Exhibit 501C and if we could start back the  
6 recording at the minute mark of 4 minutes and 13 seconds.

7 (Audio played)

8 Q. What did you understand -- what point did you understand  
9 Dawkins to be making in his comparison of football to  
10 basketball?

11 A. He's saying that that's why I want you to meet the college  
12 coaches because in basketball it's different than it is in  
13 football. The football player he references, Jadeveon Clowney,  
14 was a big football draft pick. And the NFL, the college  
15 players typically stay in school a lot longer -- they have  
16 to -- than the college basketball players. So to be building  
17 relationships, paying college coaches to help them with their  
18 recruiting or whatever they need is important because they get  
19 the players from the grassroots program and they bring them to  
20 their school, recruit them for their school. And then those  
21 players, they might be there one year and then they're gone  
22 because of the one and done that we discussed before.

23 Christian is explaining to me in the space that we're  
24 accustomed to, football, the difference between college  
25 football and college basketball, and when you have to get

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Blazer - Direct

1 involved and why being involved with college coaches, assistant  
2 coaches in basketball on the college level is so important

3 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around line 9, page  
4 9. If we could continue, please.

5 (Audio played)

6 Q. What did you understand Evans to mean when he says, "let me  
7 tell you," this is line 13 at page 10, "let me tell you, my  
8 shit be here. It be done"?

9 A. Lamont is basically -- I meant -- I understood that to mean  
10 that Lamont was kind of selling his value to us, to me, and to  
11 Munish Sood and saying that if I have the money that I need, I  
12 get the recruits that I want. And so you should be -- I'm  
13 worth dealing with, I'm worth paying this money because if the  
14 money is in my hands I get the recruits.

15 MR. BOONE: I believe we left off around line 15, if  
16 we can continue.

17 (Audio played)

18 Q. Now, looking at lines 2 and 3 at page 11. What did you  
19 understand Dawkins to mean by "and if he don't have it. I can  
20 only get so far"?

21 A. Saying if Lamont is a useful guy, if Lamont doesn't have  
22 the money needed, the money for Lamont, he can only get so far.  
23 He can't -- his hands would be tied with his ability to recruit  
24 because if he doesn't have the money, he could only go so far.  
25 So that's why we were going to pay Lamont.

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Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: If we could go forward, please.

2 (Audio played)

3 MR. BOONE: I'm sorry. If we could actually skip to  
4 minute mark 8.

5 (Audio played)

6 Q. Just to orient the jury, we're now on page 12 of the  
7 transcript around lines 15 and 16.

8 What did you mean by being able to "mitigate those  
9 needs"?

10 A. I was just referencing what was talked about before in the  
11 conversation and that if -- and kind of reinforcing or  
12 reiterating what Lamont was saying and Christian was saying  
13 about the -- Lamont being in a position to, if there was money  
14 that was needed to recruit a player or when the player was with  
15 Lamont on the team, Lamont would be in a great position to save  
16 us money because, as I said before, they were able to better  
17 understand the expectations of the player and really reduce the  
18 costs that we would need to incur in addition to paying Lamont.

19 MR. BOONE: If we could continue around line 15 at  
20 page 12.

21 (Audio played)

22 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining in that  
23 segment?

24 A. He was explaining that in addition to mitigating the cost  
25 that Lamont would be able to do for us with players, Lamont as

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 the assistant coach and the coach that recruited a player like  
2 PJ Dozier, he was there everyday. He was in front of him  
3 everyday. So if we made the investment in Lamont, if we were  
4 paying Lamont, Lamont was going to be with that player everyday  
5 so that there would be no surprises.

6 As far as PJ Dozier's business coming back our way, he  
7 was going to be able to keep, like he mentions his cousin Ricky  
8 not letting anybody get into the situation that we weren't --  
9 we wouldn't be aware of. So Lamont was with PJ Dozier all the  
10 time and he was going to be able to control who was around PJ  
11 Dozier for us.

12 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around lines 10, 11  
13 on page 13. Continue, please.

14 (Audio played)

15 Q. What point, if any, did you understand Dawkins to be making  
16 when he says "timing is everything"?

17 A. Well, and I actually mentioned too from my experience in  
18 paying football players as well that timing is everything. If  
19 somebody -- if a player were to make a request or a family  
20 member were to ask you to pay them, to get them something that  
21 they needed and you weren't in a position or didn't do it, then  
22 that relationship could be lost. And Christian is talking  
23 about the same thing on this end that the -- when something  
24 needs to be done, it needs to be done, stepping up and taking  
25 over the payments for Lamont and whatever would be needed for

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Blazer - Direct

1 players, timing was everything. Timing in these things is  
2 everything because if you don't take advantage of what -- of  
3 what -- that somebody is asking at that moment, they're just  
4 going to move on to somebody else who is going to do it for  
5 them.

6 Q. Now, you testified earlier that this portion of the  
7 conversation was at the end when you were leaving the  
8 restaurant; is that right?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. What happened after you left the restaurant?

11 A. We left the restaurant and we all got in the car, Munish,  
12 Christian Dawkins and I, and we drove back to Atlanta from  
13 Columbia, South Carolina. I was driving. Christian was in the  
14 passenger's seat. And Munish was in the back to start.

15 Q. On a general level what, if anything, did you discuss with  
16 those individuals while you were driving back to Atlanta?

17 A. We discussed the nature of the meeting with Lamont, that it  
18 was good. And we discussed the logistics of how Christian and  
19 what Christian was paying Lamont Evans, and then discussed a  
20 little bit more -- Christian had brought up some other coaches  
21 and relationships and, again, just reinforced why it was so  
22 important to be paying these coaches.

23 Q. Did you record this conversation?

24 A. I did.

25 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers a



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Blazer - Direct

1 recording of that conversation. It is Government Exhibit 501D  
2 and we also offer the related transcript which is 501DT.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: OK. Those exhibits will be received.

6 (Government's Exhibits 501D and 501DT received in  
7 evidence)

8 MR. BOONE: Ms. Bustillo, when you have a moment you  
9 can begin playing the recording, please.

10 (Audio played)

11 Q. What did you understand -- Dawkins references someone named  
12 Tony Bland. Who is Tony Bland?

13 A. Tony Bland was the associate head basketball coach at USC.

14 Q. And what did you understand Dawkins to be explaining to you  
15 about Tony Bland?

16 A. He -- we were referencing the fact that the meeting with  
17 Lamont was good and Christian brought up another coach that he  
18 had a relationship with similar to that of Lamont and he  
19 mentioned Tony Bland. And that's another person, another coach  
20 that we should meet, Munish and I should meet, and just said  
21 that he just got off the phone with him and explained a little  
22 bit about how -- what Tony was like and that he was a great  
23 person that we should -- we should get involved with like  
24 Lamont Evans.

25 Q. What do you mean "get involved with like Lamont Evans"?

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 A. Pay. Pay Tony Bland the same way we were working out the  
2 arrangement to pay Lamont Evans.

3 MR. BOONE: I believe we were around line 20. If we  
4 could go forward, please.

5 (Audio played)

6 Q. What do you understand Dawkins to be explaining in this  
7 segment?

8 A. Well, Christian is explaining that he has a lot of coaches,  
9 a lot of coaches -- a lot of coaching relationships like Lamont  
10 and Tony Bland. And he is explaining to us that he kind of  
11 grew up with that, with college coaches coming through.

12 The reference to Draymond and LaMarr is LaMarr Woodley  
13 was an NFL client that I was financial adviser to and Draymond  
14 is Draymond Green. And Christian and I talked about --

15 Q. Who is Draymond Green?

16 A. Draymond Green is an NBA basketball player. He plays for  
17 Golden State Warriors. And he was -- he was -- Draymond and  
18 LaMarr Woodley were very close friends as well. And Christian  
19 just was referencing people that we both knew in Saginaw,  
20 because Christian had grown up in Saginaw, Michigan. And  
21 Draymond and LaMarr both grew up in Saginaw as well.

22 And then he was wrenching the fact that Tom Izzo, the  
23 head coach of Michigan State, was in Christian's house crying  
24 because Christian's dad directed Draymond or didn't help Tom  
25 Izzo initially send Draymond Green to Michigan State and he was

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Blazer - Direct

1 initially going to go to Kentucky but then chose to go to  
2 Michigan State to play basketball.

3 Q. What, if anything, did Dawkins say about his father?

4 A. His father was also an assistant or a coach at Northern  
5 Illinois.

6 MR. BOONE: We can continue around line 13 on page 3.

7 (Audio played)

8 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining in this  
9 portion?

10 A. Well there was a lot there but essentially what Christian  
11 was discussing is, again, selling the coaching -- the idea of  
12 paying college coaches and like we were going to do with Lamont  
13 and how beneficial that would be for us and he references the  
14 fact that it's even more of a value and almost a sure thing in  
15 that if you're paying the college coach and that college coach  
16 doesn't, for one reason or another, send his player your way,  
17 then you pretty much have leverage over that college coach  
18 because you've been paying that college coach. And if it ever  
19 got out that you were paying that college coach, that college  
20 coach could get in trouble too, whether it was by the NCAA or  
21 by the -- by the NCAA or what's happening -- what happened now  
22 to the college coaches being paid. But if it ever got out they  
23 could be fired, they could be in trouble too. So they have a  
24 very vested interest -- you have a ton of leverage over the  
25 college coach. And even if there's a situation where it

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Blazer - Direct

1 doesn't work out and they can't send that particular player  
2 your way, again, like we were thinking, there's a pipeline of  
3 other players.

4 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I'd object. He's narrating a  
5 lot about what he claims my client said and we can read the  
6 transcript of what my client said, your Honor. Thank you.

7 THE COURT: The objection is sustained.

8 Mr. Boone, why don't you direct him more specifically.

9 Q. When Dawkins says on line 13, "He's going to block  
10 everybody from coming around," what did you understand him to  
11 mean by that?

12 A. That Lamont Evans will keep anybody else who is in the  
13 business or financial or anybody else who would have influence  
14 over the player, Lamont Evans will be in a position to block  
15 them, not let them anywhere near the player.

16 Q. And on the next line, line 14 when Dawkins says, "He's  
17 going to bring, give you access to the situation, the parents,  
18 whatever," what did you understand him to mean by that?

19 A. If we are paying Lamont Evans, Lamont Evans will give us  
20 access to the player directly and, again, keep everybody else  
21 out and will give us access to the parents or anybody else who  
22 is involved with the player.

23 Q. And when he says in the next sentence, "You know, when a  
24 time is right, like everything will be lined up because that's  
25 his job to," what did you understand him to mean by that?

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 A. When the player was ready to make the decision or was about  
2 to enter the -- turn professional, that Lamont would make sure  
3 that everything was in order for that player to sign with us as  
4 their financial adviser or business adviser and that was part  
5 of the arrangement that was involved in paying Lamont as well.

6 Q. And finally when Dawkins says, "That's what like you almost  
7 got him by the balls so to speak," what did you understand him  
8 to mean by that?

9 A. By paying Lamont Evans and Lamont Evans taking that money  
10 you had incredible leverage over Lamont Evans.

11 MR. BOONE: OK. We can go forward with the recording,  
12 please.

13 (Audio played)

14 Q. There's a reference to someone named Duffy. Do you know  
15 who that is?

16 A. Yes. It's a reference to Bill Duffy who is a sports agent  
17 who represents a number of NBA players, high-end NBA players.  
18 He has an agency that was similar, competitive to Andy Miller  
19 Sports.

20 Q. On line 2 of page 5 Dawkins says, "Duffy got about five  
21 schools," what did you understand him to be referring to?

22 A. Similar to what we were doing or what was being proposed  
23 that we do with Lamont Evans at South Carolina, Bill Duffy was  
24 doing the same thing with coaches at those five schools and he  
25 had mentioned Syracuse and a couple of other ones.

J409DAW2

Blazer - Direct

1 Q. What do you mean, "doing the same thing"?

2 A. Paying the college coaches for that leverage so that those  
3 coaches would refer their clients back to Bill Duffy for agent  
4 representation.

5 Q. Did you know Duffy personally?

6 A. No, I didn't.

7 MR. BOONE: And if we could continue, please.

8 (Audio played)

9 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining when he  
10 says, "You got direct access, you're the one controlling the  
11 kids in regards to the assistant coach?"

12 I'm looking at lines 1 and 2 on page 6.

13 A. Meaning that Lamont Evans in his position had -- the  
14 assistant coaches, we said before -- had direct access to the  
15 players. He was more involved with the players that he  
16 recruited and that he coached.

17 Q. And when Dawkins says, "If he's the head coach and he's  
18 just telling his assistants, his assistants, these are my guys,  
19 they don't necessarily have to fuck with your guys," what did  
20 you understand him to mean?

21 A. Well, he was explaining about Lamont's next move, Lamont's  
22 upward mobility; if Lamont was going to be a head coach or if  
23 he was going to be an assistant coach at a more powerful  
24 program. And what he's saying there is that the head coach,  
25 the assistant coach has direct access but a head coach is --

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Blazer - Direct

1 and that's why he'd rather Lamont be an assistant coach at a  
2 more powerful basketball school because the head coach really  
3 doesn't get involved as much in where the representation or the  
4 business management, financial management decisions from the  
5 players go, that direction. The head coach isn't as hands-on.

6 (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: If we could continue playing. We're  
2 around line 8 on page 6.

3 (Audio played)

4 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

5 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining in that  
6 segment?

7 A. So, again, it kind of leads off, and Christian's talking  
8 about the difference between a head coach and an assistant  
9 coach and really trying to sell or help us understand the value  
10 in paying Lamont Evans as an assistant coach. And he just  
11 reinforces, once again, the fact that Lamont Evans as an  
12 assistant coach can also dictate when you are -- you're paying  
13 the coach and then the coach introduces you to one of the  
14 players that he recruited, that assistant coach can dictate  
15 and, again, mitigate the costs needed, the money that needs to  
16 be paid to the player and his family while they're in South  
17 Carolina.

18 And Christian says, basically, he can tell you what  
19 needs to be done so that you can get in there and start paying  
20 the family. The assistant coach can tell you what money needs  
21 to be paid to the player and the player's family before the  
22 player really gets to a level where his value is going to go up  
23 much more and it's going to cost you more to get involved in  
24 the player's relationship.

25 MR. BOONE: If we could play the rest of the



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Blazer - Direct

1 recording.

2 (Audio played)

3 BY MR. BOONE:

4 Q. We've talked about this a little bit before, but what did  
5 you understand to be the comparison made between football and  
6 basketball?

7 MR. HANEY: Object, your Honor. It's asked and  
8 answered.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

11 A. Christian is just explaining my experience in football,  
12 that football -- recruiting college football players is  
13 different than recruiting college basketball players. You have  
14 to get in -- you have to get in when the college basketball  
15 players are still in the grass roots level when the college  
16 coaches are recruiting those players because they will make the  
17 jump from juniors -- well, seniors in high school to freshmen  
18 in college, and then they'd be eligible for the NBA.

19 Q. Now, did the recording we just went over, did that capture  
20 the entirety of the conversation you recorded in the car ride?

21 A. No. No, there was more to the call or the conversation.

22 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government would like to  
23 offer Government Exhibit 501E, which is a continuation of a  
24 recorded conversation we just went over, as well as the related  
25 transcript, which is Government Exhibit 501ET.

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Blazer - Direct

1 THE COURT: Any objection?

2 MR. CHANEY: No objection, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: 501E and 501ET will be received.

4 (Government's Exhibits 501E and 501ET received in  
5 evidence)

6 (Audio played)

7 BY MR. BOONE:

8 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be referring to when he  
9 mentioned giving \$2,500 a month?

10 A. That Christian was giving Lamont Evans \$2,500 a month.

11 Q. Did you have an understanding as to how he had been paying  
12 Lamont Evans?

13 A. Well, yes, I asked him how he had been paying him, and he  
14 said -- he said cash. He said he would come down, drop down to  
15 South Carolina once a month and give him \$2,500 cash because  
16 there are no -- don't have any paper trail on it. He also said  
17 maybe they would meet in Atlanta because Lamont recruited in  
18 Atlanta, so sometimes he would give him the \$2,500 there.

19 Q. If we could go to the next page of the transcript. There  
20 was also a reference to PJ. What did you understand that  
21 reference to be?

22 A. The reference to PJ Dozier and Christian was just saying  
23 that if we -- if we came into -- if Munish and I came into  
24 Columbia, South Carolina, to pay Lamont the \$2,500 a month,  
25 that we would also be able to probably see PJ Dozier and his

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Blazer - Direct

1 mom as well, so it would be a good idea, in addition to seeing  
2 Lamont and paying Lamont.

3 Q. Now, we can step away from the recording, the transcript  
4 for a moment.

5 How did your trip to South Carolina end?

6 A. Munish Christian and I drove back about four hours from  
7 Columbia, South Carolina, to Atlanta, and I believe Munish and  
8 I dropped Christian off at Atlanta Hartsfield airport, and it  
9 was late and he caught a flight. And I believe I went back to  
10 my hotel in Atlanta and then flew out the next day.

11 Q. After your trip to South Carolina, did you ever talk to  
12 Evans again?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. How often?

15 A. Quite often. I'm not sure how many times. We talked quite  
16 a bit.

17 Q. How did you typically communicate with him?

18 A. Either via telephone call or text message.

19 Q. Were those telephone calls recorded?

20 A. Yes, they were.

21 Q. Just generally speaking, what was the nature of your  
22 communication?

23 A. The nature of the communication was typically business  
24 oriented. It was about players that he was recruiting or  
25 players that he had and, more importantly, about money that I

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Blazer - Direct

1 was going to give to him and when we would be able to set it up  
2 so that I could get him money.

3 Q. Did you ultimately pay Evans?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. Do you remember when, approximately, you began paying  
6 Evans?

7 A. Not a hundred percent sure, but I believe it started one  
8 time in New York and then we did -- and then I paid him in Fort  
9 Lauderdale or in Miami, but I think it was shortly after the --  
10 this March meeting.

11 Q. This March meeting, what year was that?

12 A. March of 2016.

13 Q. Do you remember for approximately how long did you pay him?

14 A. I paid Lamont up until the end of July 2017.

15 Q. How often did you pay him?

16 A. I tried to pay him every month, every other month, just  
17 like we had -- we had agreed.

18 Q. How did you typically pay him?

19 A. Typically, I would give him cash. I would pay him in cash  
20 or I would send him wires from my bank account, money that was  
21 put into that bank account by the investigators, the agents  
22 from the FBI.

23 Q. Now, you just mentioned traveling to New York. I think you  
24 said also Florida. Did you ever travel to pay Lamont Evans?

25 A. Yes, I did.

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Blazer - Direct

1 Q. Where'd you travel?

2 A. New York; Morgantown, West Virginia; I think Atlanta one  
3 time; Orlando; Miami; Las Vegas. I think that's -- I think  
4 that's all the different places I met him.

5 Q. When you traveled to Florida to pay him, do you recall  
6 recording any conversations over the telephone you had with  
7 him?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government wants to offer  
10 or does offer Government Exhibit 413, which is a recording of a  
11 phone call between Marty Blazer and Lamont Evans around one of  
12 the trips he just testified to.

13 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, could we approach for just a  
14 moment, please?

15 THE COURT: Sure.

16 (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 (At sidebar)

2 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, we haven't been objecting  
3 because none of this information relates to our client, but at  
4 this point I think we're going to have a whole lot of  
5 information that -- of conduct by this guy and conversations  
6 with this guy that are well before the date in which my client  
7 is alleged to have joined in this particular conspiracy. I  
8 think the government alleges that my client joined this  
9 conspiracy at the June 20, 2017, meeting. So.

10 I'm going to ask for an instruction that all of the  
11 testimony that has been provided thus far and any testimony up  
12 to and including the date of June 20, 2017, cannot be  
13 considered by the jury in debating its case with respect to my  
14 client.

15 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, this happens quite often in  
16 conspiracy cases. I don't think the instruction can be that  
17 you cannot consider it. It's certainly relevant background.  
18 There are sometimes instructions given to remind the jury that  
19 they have to find guilt as to the defendants individually,  
20 consider them sort of separately, but in terms of not  
21 considering at all the events of the conspiracy that happened  
22 beforehand is not proper, frankly.

23 THE COURT: You're not asking that they be instructed  
24 as to that now, are you?

25 MR. MOORE: I'm asking that they be instructed at some

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Blazer - Direct

1 point while Mr. Blazer's on the stand. So if you want me to  
2 give you a proposed instruction, I can give you a proposed  
3 instruction. My concern is that we're going to sit through --  
4 by my estimation, we're not going to finish Mr. Blazer's direct  
5 tomorrow and we may not even get to my client by tomorrow, and  
6 all of this evidence they're hearing, they're not hearing a  
7 word about Merl Code. And I am going to want an instruction at  
8 the appropriate time. Whenever your Honor deems it most  
9 appropriate, you want me to just give you a proposed  
10 instruction?

11 THE COURT: Sure.

12 MR. SOLOWIEJCZYK: Can I make one point, your Honor?  
13 There is going to be evidence in this trial that Merl Code  
14 became aware of the fact that these other members of the  
15 conspiracy and that Mr. Blazer had been making payments to  
16 Lamont Evans in the past. That's something to consider when  
17 assessing the relevance of this as to Mr. Merl Code.

18 THE COURT: No one is saying it's not relevant,  
19 because the conspiracy alleged is broader than that in which  
20 Mr. Code is alleged to have participated in. So I think, on a  
21 relevance basis, it comes in. But the point is well-taken that  
22 the jury ought to understand that Mr. Code, I guess, cannot be  
23 held responsible for anything that happened before he entered  
24 the conspiracy.

25 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

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Blazer - Direct

1           THE COURT: Whether we do that now or some other  
2 point, I think it's immaterial quite honestly but I'm happy to  
3 consider any language that you give.

4           MR. MOORE: Thank you, Judge.

5           THE COURT: Thank you.

6           (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 (In open court; jury present)

2 MR. BOONE: I think where we left off, your Honor, we  
3 offered Government Exhibit 413 and the related transcript,  
4 Government Exhibit 413T.

5 THE COURT: Any objection?

6 MR. MOORE: No objection, your Honor. Just subject to  
7 my comments at the sidebar, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Yes, sir, subject to that, 413 will be  
9 received.

10 (Government's Exhibits 413 and 413T received in  
11 evidence)

12 MR. BOONE: Ms. Bustillo, when you have it ready, if  
13 you could play the recording, please.

14 (Audio played)

15 MR. BOONE: If we could just pause here.

16 Q. Mr. Blazer, do you recall making this recording?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Who are you speaking with on this recording?

19 A. Lamont Evans.

20 Q. Where were you at the time you made this recording?

21 A. I was in a -- I think I was in a hotel in Miami, Florida.

22 Q. Why were you in Miami, Florida?

23 A. I was to meet Lamont Evans to pay Lamont Evans his monthly  
24 amount.

25 Q. At this point had you already met with Lamont Evans, or

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Blazer - Direct

1 were you about to meet with Lamont Evans?

2 A. I -- I believe I met with him there already, yes.

3 MR. BOONE: If we could just continue with the  
4 recording, please.

5 (Audio played)

6 MR. BOONE: Pause here for a moment. I believe we're  
7 around line 11 of page 2 of the transcript.

8 Q. If you could help the jury provide context, what are you  
9 talking about here?

10 A. What I'm talking about is we -- Lamont, we agreed to pay  
11 Lamont on a monthly basis, Munish and I, Munish Sood. And  
12 Munish and I were both down in Miami to meet with Lamont, and  
13 part of Lamont's payment was to come from me and part of  
14 Lamont's payment was to come from Munish. And I believe prior  
15 to this I had given Lamont my piece, what I had committed to  
16 paying him, money, and Munish was supposed to have met with  
17 Lamont. And Lamont drove down from Fort Lauderdale to Miami,  
18 which is about a 30-minute drive, and Munish either didn't -- I  
19 think he showed up, but I don't think he had the money for  
20 Lamont. So Lamont was -- Lamont and I were talking, and Lamont  
21 was upset that he drove down from Fort Lauderdale to Miami and  
22 Munish didn't have the money.

23 Q. How much had you paid him?

24 A. I -- I think on that visit I paid him, I believe it was,  
25 \$1,500. \$1,500, I believe.

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Blazer - Direct

1 Q. And that was at the direction of law enforcement?

2 A. That was at the direction of law enforcement, yes.

3 MR. BOONE: OK. If we could continue, please.

4 (Audio played)

5 MR. BOONE: If you could pause here.

6 Q. You reference someone named Aaron. Who is that?

7 A. It was a friend of mine in -- that was down in Miami with  
8 us. His name is Aaron Killington.

9 Q. And you said you ran everything through him. Can you  
10 explain what you meant by that.

11 A. I meant I explained to him the situation in paying Lamont,  
12 and Lamont -- Lamont helping us out with the business  
13 management side with referring players to us.

14 Q. So had you discussed Aaron with Evans, Lamont Evans,  
15 before?

16 A. Just in that conversation when we were down there, but  
17 nothing -- nothing about what we were doing, no.

18 Q. Doing in terms of what?

19 A. Paying Lamont Evans.

20 Q. So why are you telling -- why are you mentioning Aaron to  
21 Evans?

22 A. Just to keep Evans -- just to keep Lamont knowing that I  
23 was trying to get him the money and looking for different  
24 resources to get him the money that Munish said he was going to  
25 pay him, but he didn't pay him.

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Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: We can continue.

2 (Audio played)

3 MR. BOONE: You can pause here.

4 Q. What did you understand Evans to mean when he said, "I  
5 could easily get a bag from someone else"?

6 A. Lamont was saying that he -- instead of us paying him,  
7 instead of me and Munish paying him, he was saying that he  
8 could easily find another financial adviser or business adviser  
9 to step in our place and do the same thing and make those  
10 payments to him if we didn't come through and pay him.

11 MR. BOONE: OK. We can continue.

12 (Audio played)

13 MR. BOONE: If we could pause there.

14 Q. Line 16 and 17, Evans references "paying for a service."  
15 What did you understand him to mean by that?

16 A. Just in our discussions when we met with him sort of  
17 referencing the fact that if we were making payments to him, he  
18 was going to be referring clients that he was recruiting or  
19 clients that he had on his team to us for the business and  
20 financial services.

21 MR. BOONE: OK. We can continue, please.

22 (Audio played)

23 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

24 Q. What did you understand Evans to be explaining?

25 A. There's a couple of things there. I mean, Lamont was

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Blazer - Direct

1 pretty upset that Munish hadn't gotten the money to him. And,  
2 basically, he's saying that when I go in and recruit a player,  
3 that player is yours even if you -- even if you don't know him,  
4 and it's not like I'm going to bring you in and say, these are  
5 the guys who are going to handle the financial or business  
6 management. You're part of the financial management; you're  
7 part of the recruitment package. If you're paying me, these  
8 guys come in, and you're part of the recruitment package.  
9 There's no -- there's no "these are the people that I want you  
10 to talk to for your financial or business management."

11 And then he goes on to say in this same piece that --  
12 that basically if anybody else comes around and tries to work  
13 with the player or talk to the player about those services,  
14 he'll keep them out. He'll crush him. He won't let them in.

15 MR. BOONE: I believe we stopped around line 22 on  
16 page 5 of the transcript. If we could continue, please.

17 (Audio played)

18 MR. BOONE: We could pause here.

19 Q. There's reference to a lot of sort of number figures.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What do you understand --

22 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, could we approach for a  
23 moment, please?

24 THE COURT: OK.

25 (Continued on next page)

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 (At sidebar)

2 MR. MOORE: For my client I'm going to make a 403  
3 objection to this witness explaining in exhaustive detail what  
4 he believes another member of the conspiracy who is not  
5 participating in this trial means. This is evidence that  
6 relates to conduct that occurred prior to my client's joining  
7 the conspiracy. I understand that the government is offering  
8 this as coconspirator statements, but what the government's  
9 really doing here is they're offering a coconspirator's  
10 statement of a non-testifying coconspirator and then letting  
11 Mr. Blazer explain what he believes that coconspirator was  
12 intending or means.

13 So I believe that under 403 that is overly prejudicial  
14 to my client. I don't see the probative value of it. So I  
15 must object.

16 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, it's permissible under  
17 Rule 803. It's obviously relevant because one of the charges  
18 is a charge against Dawkins specifically regarding the Evans  
19 scheme. So we have to prove that scheme, and obviously we have  
20 to prove -- in proving that scheme, we are trying to show that  
21 the scheme actually worked to some extent. They talked about  
22 paying coaches; they paid the coach. The coach is  
23 acknowledging the situation and explaining in detail what he  
24 intends to do. In every case in which there is a conspiracy,  
25 it is common for a witness to explain what the members of the

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Blazer - Direct

1 conspiracy are talking about. They don't have to be sitting at  
2 the trial table in order for them to be able to do that. The  
3 jury needs to be able to understand what's going on,  
4 particularly when it's not entirely clear and there's often  
5 coded language used.

6 MR. MOORE: With all due respect, I've tried a lot  
7 more conspiracy cases than I think Mr. Boone has. I have never  
8 seen this done this way before, but I understand I'm in a  
9 different place, OK? I understand that.

10 My point is that this evidence is not admissible  
11 against my client pursuant to 801 or 802 or 803 because he is  
12 not a conspirator at this point. So this evidence is  
13 completely inadmissible against my client. He was not an  
14 alleged member of this conspiracy at the time these statements  
15 were made, and so I'm asking your Honor to either stop this or  
16 instruct the jury now that this testimony cannot be considered  
17 against Mr. Code.

18 THE COURT: I don't have to do it now. Just under 403  
19 objection, the testimony, as I understand it, it's clear to me  
20 from the transcript it's just more of the same of what we've  
21 been hearing, that coaches are getting paid, that they're  
22 getting paid thousands of dollars, and that they're getting  
23 paid by individuals like Mr. Blazer and other financial  
24 advisers. So from a 403 perspective, it's simply more of the  
25 same. I don't think it's overly prejudicial to Mr. Code, and

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Blazer - Direct

1 at the appropriate time, the jury will be instructed that they  
2 cannot hold anything -- that they can't hold him accountable  
3 for anything that happened before he entered the conspiracy.

4 MR. HANEY: I would note at this particular time,  
5 though, Blazer and Code don't have a partnership formed or  
6 anything. Dawkins is working for ASM. Blazer's now taken over  
7 this relationship with Lamont Evans for his own benefit. He  
8 and Munish Sood are financial planners. There's no association  
9 at this point. That occurs later, this relationship that  
10 occurs between Munish Sood and Christian Dawkins, later. At  
11 this point, Christian Dawkins' still working for Andy Miller.

12 So whatever Marty Blazer is doing at this point down  
13 in Miami with Lamont Evans, there's no nexus necessarily to  
14 that and Dawkins. So what they're doing is they're proving  
15 Lamont Evans' guilt. I don't see how this relates to Christian  
16 Dawkins who's now passed this guy off to Marty Blazer to hustle  
17 money out of him. I don't see how it's relevant to either  
18 defendant in this case.

19 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, if you want me to address  
20 this, number one, Christian Dawkins, as we've sort of gone over  
21 in exhaustive detail, obviously wanted Blazer to get involved  
22 so that they could both be successful in this arrangement.  
23 There will be testimony later that Dawkins does inquire about  
24 Blazer what's going on with Lamont. I think maybe we may not  
25 get to it today, but certainly tomorrow there will be



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Blazer - Direct

1 discussions between Blazer and Dawkins about Lamont Evans and  
2 what's happening with him and how are things working out with  
3 him past this point. So the argument that he's sort of -- it's  
4 not relevant anymore doesn't fit.

5 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, it's not a partnership with  
6 somebody. That's somebody -- that guy I told, that coach you  
7 should get a relationship with. At this point Munish Sood and  
8 Martin Blazer have their independent company, this management  
9 company, this financial planning outfit. There's no  
10 association with ASM. Christian Dawkins is working for an  
11 agency here in New York, for Andy Miller Sports. He's not  
12 broken off yet at this point in time.

13 THE COURT: As I understand the government's theory in  
14 the conspiracy alleged, Mr. Dawkins conspired with Mr. Blazer  
15 in order to bring Mr. Blazer in to provide finances so that  
16 subsequently, ultimately, Mr. Dawkins will have the benefit of  
17 having established that relationship through the coaches so  
18 that he can then represent the players, as I understand it.

19 MR. BOONE: Yes, your Honor. And it, frankly, doesn't  
20 matter where he works. The charge is they had an agreement to  
21 pay coaches, whether he's working for ASM or ABC, or whoever,  
22 the point is those two individuals had a meeting of the minds  
23 regarding paying Lamont Evans. Lamont Evans was a part of that  
24 conspiracy, clearly, and that's what he's been charged with and  
25 that's what we're proving up.

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 MR. HANEY: We, obviously, don't agree.

2 MR. MOORE: And I would simply make the point that I  
3 think there are multiple conspiracy issues here in this case.  
4 We will be asking for a multiple conspiracy charge at the  
5 conclusion of the case. But at this point, I would ask your  
6 Honor to instruct the jury that this testimony that they have  
7 heard thus far cannot be considered against Mr. Code. I would  
8 also ask your Honor -- I will be objecting or we will be  
9 objecting to any more of these Lamont Evans calls that are just  
10 between Lamont Evans and Mr. Blazer and that do not involve  
11 Mr. Dawkins or Mr. Code.

12 MR. BOONE: This is the last one.

13 MR. HANEY: And I would agree.

14 THE COURT: This is the last one?

15 MR. BOONE: And the only one.

16 THE COURT: Very well.

17 MR. BOONE: First and last.

18 THE COURT: It will be admitted over your objections.

19 MR. MOORE: Thank you.

20 (Continued on next page)

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J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 (In open court; jury present)

2 THE COURT: Mr. Boone.

3 MR. BOONE: If we could, just so we can reorient the  
4 jury where we left off, go back and play maybe the last 15  
5 seconds.

6 (Audio played)

7 MR. BOONE: You can pause here.

8 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to be explaining in this  
9 segment?

10 A. Lamont Evans was -- Lamont was saying that he was just,  
11 again, sort of venting about the dynamic of what we're paying  
12 him and the value that he can bring in a player. And he was  
13 just explaining to me, again, if you're -- if I have a recruit  
14 that comes in and you're already in there and I say that the  
15 player and his family need \$5,000 for whatever their needs  
16 might be, and you can do that early on and pay me the \$2,000  
17 and that's \$7,000, then you've got a guy who is a potential  
18 first round NBA first round draft pick and you've got that  
19 player for \$7,000, and then maybe you need a little bit more.  
20 Just going over some of the other numbers that might need to be  
21 invested in that player relationship. But, essentially, he's  
22 saying, again, paying me \$2,000 a month, and then I can sort of  
23 get the player for you and I can drive and dictate what the  
24 costs to you to further handle that player's needs are going to  
25 be.

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: If we could continue, please.

2 (Audio played)

3 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

4 Q. There's, again, a lot of numbers referenced. What did you  
5 understand Evans to be saying here?

6 A. To me, remembering it when it was said reminded me of what  
7 Christian said about skipping a step. When you're dealing just  
8 with the agents, you're -- you've got to be dealing with the  
9 coach. And I think Lamont was pointing that out in this, that  
10 if you're -- if you're in with this player that I'm recruiting  
11 now and I -- you're paying me and I can tell you what it takes  
12 to secure the player, to take care of what the player needs,  
13 and you're doing that, then when the agent steps in, the  
14 agent's not going to be able to dictate terms to you because I  
15 already dictated terms to you. I already told you what the  
16 player needs, and you already got that moving forward. So no  
17 agent now is going to step in and say, OK, Marty, Munish,  
18 financial business advisers, this is what you need to come up  
19 with to help out the situation. It wasn't the agent that was  
20 going to dictate it. It was the -- it was him; it was the  
21 coach.

22 That's kind of what Lamont was saying was just that  
23 value, and he was putting together the numbers in reference to  
24 what he had known how big that could be when it gets to those  
25 levels with the potential elite basketball player.

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 5 of page 8 of  
2 the transcript. If we could continue with the recording,  
3 please.

4 (Audio played)

5 MR. BOONE: Pause here.

6 Q. What did you understand Evans to be referring to when he  
7 says, "I know what I can do with the seven right now, the  
8 eight, whatever," and goes on to say, "it locks in two guys"?

9 A. That was reference to money that he wanted to get from  
10 myself and from Munish Sood. And he said, I know what that  
11 seven or 8,000, that seven or \$8,000 can -- guys that he can  
12 recruiting, can go to those guys, and then he -- or those  
13 players, and then he locks those players in for his school,  
14 recruiting.

15 MR. BOONE: If we can continue, please.

16 (Audio played)

17 MR. BOONE: Pause there.

18 Q. What did you understand Evans to mean that it will be  
19 locking it in for you guys?

20 A. Meaning that if he -- if we gave the money and he secured  
21 the recruits with that money, that he would be referring those  
22 players back to Munish and I for the business and financial  
23 services.

24 MR. BOONE: We can continue with the recording.

25 (Audio played)

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: Pause here. Thank you.

2 Q. What did you understand Evans to mean by "shit-bringing  
3 conversation"?

4 A. Meaning that if he had people around him that he brought  
5 from Fort Lauderdale to Miami with him, then they would start  
6 asking questions about what was going on, what the relationship  
7 was between Lamont and Munish and I.

8 Q. And there's a reference to a World Wide Wes. Do you know  
9 what that is?

10 A. Yes, he's a -- he's kind of a consultant for an agency,  
11 consultant for CAA. He's been around basketball and football  
12 quite a bit, and from the -- all the way from the grass roots  
13 in basketball up to NBA. He's been around brands like Nike and  
14 Adidas. Sort of a public figure, but he's very well-known out  
15 there as somebody that is very visible. And Lamont was saying,  
16 I'm not World Wide Wes. I don't want to have those  
17 conversations. I don't want to have a lot of people around me  
18 or draw attention to myself.

19 MR. BOONE: OK. If we could continue.

20 (Audio played)

21 BY MR. BOONE:

22 Q. How did you typically pay Evans?

23 A. In cash.

24 Q. And how much?

25 A. Typically, it was roughly \$2,000. It was -- I'd piece it

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 together, but it would be 500 here, like I said, 1,500 there.  
2 But it was roughly \$2,000, and it got all the way up to  
3 approximately 4,000, 4,500 a month at the end when I stopped  
4 paying him.

5 Q. How did you determine the amount to pay him?

6 A. By the investigators.

7 Q. Where did the money come from?

8 A. The money initially, as I said, came from me. It was just  
9 savings that I had. And then eventually, when the FBI got  
10 involved, it was FBI moneys.

11 Q. Was all the money you paid at the direction of law  
12 enforcement?

13 A. Yes, it was.

14 Q. Did you ever provide Evans with gifts?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. What type of gifts?

17 A. I believe -- I believe it was just -- I'd given him a  
18 couple of sets of headphones, earphones. One was a brand  
19 called Sol Republic that I just had, I had at my home, and I  
20 gave them -- I sent them to him. And another one he had asked  
21 me if I had any connections with Dre Beats. He wanted a  
22 specific pair of Dre Beats headphones, and so FBI got those for  
23 him, and I gave those to him when we met in Morgantown, West  
24 Virginia.

25 Q. Do you remember how much they cost?

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 A. The Dre Beats were maybe, I don't know, \$300, \$350 pair of  
2 headphones. I'm not a hundred percent sure.

3 Q. What was the purpose of giving Evans these gifts along with  
4 the money?

5 A. To strengthen the relationship, and he asked for them. I  
6 mean, he asked for the headphones, but to -- the ones that I  
7 gave him were to strengthen the relationship between us.

8 Q. And what was your understanding as to what Evans would do,  
9 if anything, in exchange for the money and gifts?

10 A. My understanding, 100 percent, was that he was going to  
11 refer his players or recruits to me for business management  
12 services.

13 Q. Now, did there come a time when Evans left his coaching job  
14 at South Carolina?

15 A. Yes. He left his coaching job at South Carolina and took,  
16 what I understood to be, an associate or assistant head coach  
17 position at Oklahoma state.

18 Q. Do you remember when he left?

19 A. I'm not sure, but I believe it was -- I believe at the time  
20 of that call, which was August of 2016, he was at Oklahoma  
21 State, yes.

22 Q. Do you know why he left South Carolina for Oklahoma State?

23 A. No, I don't, but I was assuming that it was for a better  
24 position.

25 Q. When he left, you were still paying him money at that time?



J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. So what effect, if any -- did his move from one job to  
3 another affect your arrangement?

4 A. It really had no effect on it. Our relationship was still  
5 the same.

6 Q. Did you continue to pay him while he was at Oklahoma State  
7 University?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. Now, you testified earlier that in exchange for paying  
10 Evans, your understanding was Evans was going to steer players  
11 towards you. What players, if any, did Evans introduce you to?

12 A. Me personally or --

13 Q. You personally.

14 A. Me personally, just one. When he was at Oklahoma State, he  
15 introduced me to a player, Jeffrey Carroll, and we met in  
16 Morgantown, West Virginia.

17 Q. When, approximately, did you meet Jeffrey Carroll with  
18 Evans?

19 A. February of 2017.

20 Q. Where did you meet?

21 A. We met in the Oklahoma State basketball team's hotel, and  
22 we met in -- we met in Lamont Evans' room.

23 Q. You said that was in West Virginia?

24 A. Yes, they were -- Oklahoma State was playing West Virginia  
25 University in a basketball game, and we met the night before

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 their game.

2 Q. Who was present in the room?

3 A. It was me, Lamont Evans, and Jeffrey Carroll.

4 Q. Was that meeting recorded by law enforcement?

5 A. Yes, yes, it was.

6 Q. And what was the purpose of that meeting?

7 A. Well, the purpose was, number one, I gave Lamont \$2,000 in  
8 cash and the headphones, the Dre Beats, and Lamont made the  
9 introduction of Jeffrey Carroll to me to introduce me as his  
10 guy and the person that would handle Jeffrey's business  
11 advisory services when he turned pro.

12 Q. What reaction, if any, did Carroll have to what was said at  
13 the meeting?

14 A. He was completely open and in agreement with everything  
15 that Lamont said.

16 Q. How did the meeting end?

17 A. We had -- the meeting with Jeff was really good. We had  
18 just agreed to continue to talk, and Jeff left the room. And  
19 then Lamont and I continued to talk for a little bit longer,  
20 and then Lamont walked me out to my car.

21 Q. Did you ever meet with Carroll again?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you know if he ultimately became a professional  
24 basketball player?

25 A. No, he did not, I believe.

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 Q. Earlier in your testimony, you mentioned PJ Dozier. You  
2 said it was a player at the University of South Carolina. Did  
3 Evans ever introduce Dozier to you?

4 A. Not to me, not to me personally, no.

5 Q. Do you know if Evans ever introduced Dozier to Sood or  
6 Dawkins?

7 A. He introduced him. I'm not sure about Christian, but I  
8 know he introduced him to Munish and PJ's mother.

9 Q. How do you know that?

10 A. Munish told me and Lamont told me as well.

11 Q. Now, after Dawkins introduced you to Evans -- I'm talking  
12 about the trip in South Carolina we went over -- did there come  
13 a time when you and Dawkins stopped speaking regularly to each  
14 other?

15 A. Yes, the meeting in -- the meeting in Columbia, South  
16 Carolina, was March of 2016, and we kind of stopped talking to  
17 each other around May of 2016.

18 Q. For how long were you not speaking to each other directly,  
19 approximately?

20 A. We would a little bit here and there, but we really kind of  
21 picked up the conversation again in almost a year, around May  
22 of 2017.

23 Q. Why did you stop speaking?

24 A. Christian kind of stopped speaking, didn't kind of, but  
25 stopped speaking to me because May 2016 was when the SEC civil

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Blazer - Direct

1 suit was settled, and the information about what I had done in  
2 the movies and music investments came out and was it  
3 everywhere. So those SEC charges were all over the place, and  
4 so Christian just kind of stopped talking to me.

5 Q. Did you continue to pay Evans during this time period?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Were you paying any other coaches during this time period?

8 A. I believe one other coach.

9 Q. Who was that?

10 A. Chuck Person. I believe it was around that time. I'm not  
11 a hundred percent sure, but I believe it was somewhere in the  
12 fall of 2016, maybe.

13 Q. And that was at the direction of law enforcement?

14 A. It was, yes.

15 Q. Where did Chuck Person work?

16 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I'd object. This is entirely  
17 irrelevant to this case.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 A. He was at the University of Auburn.

20 Q. Now, during this time period in which you and Dawkins  
21 aren't speaking, which you testified was around May -- correct  
22 me if I'm wrong, but around May 2016 to May -- why don't you  
23 tell me.

24 A. May 2016 was when the charges were -- when the settlement  
25 with the SEC came out, and we really didn't talk -- any of our

J4OHDaw3

Blazer - Direct

1 conversation was kind of through Munish Sood, but we really did  
2 not have any meaningful conversations until around early May of  
3 2017.

4 Q. What was your relationship like with Sood around this time?

5 A. Well, Munish knew that the charges were coming, so it was  
6 not a big surprise to Munish. We maintained a good  
7 relationship. We, Munish and I, talked quite a bit still.

8 Q. Do you know what the status was of Sood and Dawkins'  
9 relationship during this time period in which you and Dawkins  
10 aren't talking?

11 MR. HANEY: Objection. Foundation, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Overruled.

13 A. From Munish I was -- they were communicating and actually  
14 working together on one, at least one, recruit, one player that  
15 I knew of.

16 Q. How do you know they were working together and their  
17 relationship was good?

18 A. Because Munish, Munish had told me.

19 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I'd object to the hearsay that  
20 he's getting into.

21 MR. BOONE: Coconspirator.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 MR. HANEY: Thank you.

24 Q. Now, you mentioned that you ultimately did start talking to  
25 Dawkins again. What led to you and Dawkins speaking again?

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Blazer - Direct

1 A. Well, in approximately October/November of 2016, I started  
2 working with -- the FBI got involved in what we were doing, and  
3 I -- they had a partner investor that was working with me. And  
4 Munish was aware, Munish Sood was aware of this investor who  
5 was willing to work in the direction of the basketball stuff.  
6 And in addition to that, around early May of 2017, Christian  
7 was fired from his job at Andy Miller Sports.

8 Q. Now, just to sort of be more clear, you said the FBI had a  
9 partner investor working for you. Would you explain that a  
10 little bit more.

11 A. The FBI was starting to get involved in this investigation,  
12 and they brought an undercover agent along to work with me.  
13 And he was posing as an investor who was interested in  
14 committing moneys to paying the basketball coaches, paying the  
15 basketball players, and just the overall program that we had  
16 initiated back when we started with Lamont. And he was -- and  
17 it was known by Munish that I had this partner investor.

18 Q. So after you and Dawkins resumed speaking again, did there  
19 come a time when you, Dawkins, Sood, and this undercover FBI  
20 agent posing as an investor decided to meet?

21 A. Yes. We met in early June 2017 on a yacht in Manhattan.

22 Q. What was the purpose of the meeting?

23 A. The purpose of the meeting was a couple-fold. One was that  
24 Munish, the undercover agent, and Christian were -- had set up  
25 this business management company, and at this meeting they were

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Blazer - Direct

1 going to sign the paperwork, the documentation, to memorialize  
2 and finalize the details of the company. The undercover agent  
3 was going to fund the account with \$25,000 in cash, and  
4 Christian was going to -- Christian was talking about the  
5 potential clients and coaches. He had sent a list of different  
6 assistant coaches that would be willing to work with us the  
7 same way as Lamont was, to be paid to refer us players, and we  
8 went over that list as well and where and when we would meet  
9 them.

10 THE COURT: Before you ask your next question, it's  
11 12:45, so we're going to take our second break. Please be  
12 prepared to come back at 1 o'clock. Please do not discuss the  
13 case.

14 (Jury excused)

15 (Continued on next page)

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1 (Jury not present)

2 THE COURT: Mr. Blazer, you may step down.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 THE COURT: You can be seated.

5 Anything for me?

6 MR. MOORE: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 MR. MOORE: At this point, given the prejudicial  
9 spillover issue, I'm constrained to move for a severance. If  
10 your Honor chooses to deny that, we have prepared a proposed  
11 instruction which we would ask your Honor to give at this  
12 point.

13 MR. MARK: Your Honor, it's well settled, and I'm  
14 quoting here, that a coconspirator's hearsay statements made  
15 before a person joins the conspiracy are admissible against  
16 that person. There's no basis for this. This is not what 803  
17 says, and we would object to any such request for any  
18 instruction. Obviously, since it's admissible, there's no  
19 basis for a severance motion.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Moore.

21 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, I don't agree that it's well  
22 settled that coconspirator statements made two years before  
23 someone allegedly joins a conspiracy can be admissible against  
24 the person. So I disagree with Mr. Mark's statement of the  
25 law.



J4OHDaw3

1 THE COURT: Well, I don't think Mr. Mark was arguing  
2 that it's admissible and it could be held -- that Mr. Code can  
3 be held responsible for. I think the argument is that it's  
4 admissible at this trial, and I believe what your argument is,  
5 really, is a prejudicial spillover argument --

6 MR. MOORE: That's correct, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: -- and not a relevance argument or  
8 admissibility argument.

9 MR. MOORE: It's certainly admissible against  
10 Mr. Dawkins, I concede that. And we're joined together, so  
11 that's the point of my severance motion, which is because of  
12 the prejudicial spillover, because I don't believe that that  
13 evidence is properly admissible against Mr. Code or that the  
14 jury can consider it against Mr. Code.

15 THE COURT: I think that you're probably right on both  
16 grounds, but it's not a basis to sever this case. And I think  
17 it's something that can be addressed by an instruction to the  
18 jury, so I'm happy to consider whatever language you have.

19 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir. How would you like us to submit  
20 that? Would you just like us to email it to chambers with  
21 copies to the government? How would you propose we do that?

22 THE COURT: As soon as you can in writing, absolutely.

23 MR. MOORE: We can do it right now.

24 THE COURT: Great.

25 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Judge.

J4OHDaw3

1 THE COURT: Yes. 1 o'clock, don't be late.

2 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

3 (Recess)

4 (Continued on next page)

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J409DAW4

Blazer - Direct

1 THE COURT: Has the government received the proposed  
2 language?

3 MR. MARK: We got it just a minute ago. We would --  
4 noticeably, there is no case law in support of this proposed  
5 limiting instruction. We think this misstates the law. We  
6 think this is inappropriate at this time.

7 To the extent the Court wants to consider such an  
8 instruction, we think that this is: A, not the time for it;  
9 and B, we would respectfully request the time to actually fully  
10 respond to this request.

11 THE COURT: I will give you that opportunity. So we  
12 won't give them the instruction now.

13 I think it is the case that -- and I don't know that  
14 you'll want to disagree -- that the evidence that has been  
15 provided thus far at least with respect to Mr. Blazer does not  
16 implicate Mr. Code and nothing that he says -- that he has said  
17 can be held against Mr. Code.

18 MR. MARK: Well I mean I think Mr. Code joins the  
19 conspiracy as he finds it. There's going to be evidence that  
20 Mr. Code understood what was going on even though he wasn't  
21 personally involved with Mr. Blazer during this time but he  
22 understood the relationship and the bribes that were being paid  
23 to Lamont Evans including with respect to what we suggest is  
24 one of the particular players that's being discussed here,  
25 Jeffrey Carroll. So this is definitely relevant evidence and

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Blazer - Direct

1 we do think this evidence can be used against Mr. Code.

2 THE COURT: I don't know the evidence as well as you  
3 guys so we'll wait to hear.

4 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir. It looks like we'll perhaps be  
5 briefing that this evening.

6 THE COURT: OK. Always happy to get here early.

7 So we can bring out the jury.

8 If we could have Mr. Blazer come back in.

9 LOUIS MARTIN BLAZER, resumed.

10 MR. MOORE: Based on your Honor's instruction or your  
11 Honor is allowing us not to be present for the full time, I'm  
12 going to depart at two. I'm going to do so in a very  
13 inobtrusive fashion, in fact.

14 THE COURT: OK.

15 (Continued on next page)

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J409DAW4

Blazer - Direct

1 (Jury present)

2 THE COURT: Mr. Boone.

3 BY MR. BOONE:

4 Q. Mr. Blazer, I believe when we took the break you had just  
5 finished explaining that Dawkins, Sood and an undercover agent  
6 from the FBI posing as an investor were forming a company  
7 together. Could you explain who did you understand to be  
8 involved in this new company?

9 A. It was just Munish Sood, Christian Dawkins, and the  
10 undercover FBI agent.

11 Q. And what -- for each person involved do you have an  
12 understanding of what their role was going to be in the  
13 company?

14 A. Jeff was the -- the undercover agent was going to be the  
15 investor. Munish was going to be the financial adviser, handle  
16 the financial end of it. And Christian was going to be the  
17 business manager. That's the way I understood it to be.

18 Q. Were you going to have a role in the company?

19 A. I was not going to have a role in the company, no.

20 Q. Why not?

21 A. I was under the understanding that because of what had  
22 happened with me with the SEC and everything we were -- I was  
23 just going to stay on the outside and not be involved with the  
24 company. I was going to pose as I'd get a piece of whatever  
25 was going on with the business and we would figure that out

J409DAW4

Blazer - Direct

1 later.

2 Q. You're saying your name wouldn't be associated?

3 A. My name would not be associated with the company, no.

4 Q. And you testified earlier that ultimately there was a  
5 meeting that was had between, Dawkins, Sood, yourself and the  
6 undercover. Where did that meeting occur?

7 A. That meeting occurred on a yacht, a boat in Manhattan that  
8 the undercover agents had arranged.

9 Q. And do you remember approximately when this was?

10 A. It was June of 2017.

11 Q. And was that meeting recorded by law enforcement?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 Q. What happened at the meeting?

14 A. Well, the -- everybody agreed that they were going to sign  
15 the paperwork -- Munish, Christian, and the undercover agent --  
16 the paperwork to finalize the details of the business that they  
17 were forming. The undercover agent funded the account for the  
18 business by giving Munish \$25,000 in cash and we all went over  
19 a list of coaches that Christian had sent that for the purposes  
20 of trying to arrange when, where, and if we would be meeting  
21 with them for the purposes of doing the same thing we were  
22 doing with Lamont Evans, paying those coaches.

23 MR. BOONE: Your Honor at this time the government  
24 offers a recording of that meeting and a related transcript.  
25 It's Government Exhibit 508A and 508AT.

J409DAW4

Blazer - Direct

1 THE COURT: Any objection?

2 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: 508A and 508AT will be received.

4 (Government's Exhibits 508A and 508AT received in  
5 evidence)

6 MR. BOONE: If we could play the recording when you're  
7 ready, Ms. Bustillo.

8 (Video played)

9 Q. Where are you?

10 A. We are actually on the boat, on the yacht in Manhattan.

11 Q. Could you identify who we're seeing on the scene?

12 A. Sure. The person with his back to the screen is -- and --  
13 the back of his head is redacted is the undercover agent for  
14 the FBI. I am sitting to his left. And to my left is Munish  
15 Sood. To Munish's left is Munish's assistant, Alicia Carroll.  
16 And to her left is Christian Dawkins.

17 MR. BOONE: OK. We can continue.

18 (Video played)

19 Q. Do you know what Dawkins is talking about in this segment?

20 A. I believe he was talking about a college combine type camp  
21 but I wasn't sure exactly which one but it was in Vegas, it was  
22 in Las Vegas.

23 MR. BOONE: We can continue.

24 (Video played)

25 Q. Who is talking -- who just spoke?

J409DAW4

Blazer - Direct

1 A. That was the undercover FBI agent.

2 Q. Do you know what name the undercover went by?

3 A. Yes. Jeff D'Angelo.

4 Q. That was --

5 A. That was the undercover's name.

6 Q. And the undercover, Jeff D'Angelo, referenced a coaching  
7 list. Did you understand what he was referring to?

8 A. Yes. It was a list of coaches that Christian sent and on  
9 that list was a number of different schools and coaches and in  
10 parentheses he had certain words to describe the coaches.

11 Q. And the undercover, Jeff D'Angelo, also references a  
12 business model. Do you know what he was referring to?

13 A. The business model was the business model that we had  
14 established with Lamont Evans; basically paying the coach for  
15 the coach's relationship with their players.

16 MR. BOONE: Continue, please.

17 (Video played)

18 Q. What did you understand the undercover to be explaining in  
19 that segment?

20 A. The undercover was explaining the -- basically just  
21 reiterating the model that we had established and discussed  
22 with Lamont Evans in that meeting in Columbia, South Carolina,  
23 and then on the way back where Christian was discussing the  
24 very meaningful nature of paying the college coaches and  
25 helping them to recruit even on the grassroots level because



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1 getting those players at that level was the most important  
2 thing because they were basically one and done.

3 So Jeff is just reiterating that model that had been  
4 established back then and saying that we were interested in  
5 continuing with that model.

6 Q. Now, you testified earlier that when the undercover  
7 referenced coaching list, your understanding was he was  
8 referencing a list of coaches Dawkins had sent around earlier;  
9 is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 MR. HANEY: Your Honor, I object to what the reference  
12 is to the undercover. The undercover is not a conspirator in  
13 this case.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 MR. MOORE: Your Honor, can we approach for a moment  
16 on another issue. I hate to do this again but I just need to  
17 make one more issue.

18 THE COURT: Come on up.

19 (Continued on next page)

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1 (At sidebar)

2 MR. MOORE: I apologize for not bringing it up before  
3 this exhibit. But in the Gatto case the government  
4 specifically requested that Judge Kaplan allow pixillation and  
5 hiding the faces of these undercovers. We agreed to it.

6 I don't recall any such request made to this Court.  
7 We do not recall agreeing to it, and we don't agree to it.

8 MR. MARK: Your Honor, we discussed this with defense  
9 counsel. Our understanding was they explicitly agreed to it.  
10 There were multiple conversations. We produced this all to  
11 them as exhibits with the pixillation.

12 We have no objection if your Honor wants to give an  
13 instruction as to -- so that it doesn't in any way prejudice  
14 them thinking -- so the jury shouldn't infer anything negative  
15 about their clients. But at this moment for them to be raising  
16 this we find it, I've got to say, a little bit ridiculous here,  
17 your Honor.

18 THE COURT: This is the first time this issue has ever  
19 been brought before me. I was communicating with my clerk. I  
20 have never seen it. I don't know what the law is with respect  
21 to it. So I'm happy to consider whatever language you propose.

22 MR. MOORE: I frankly don't recall -- if there was  
23 such a discussion, I was not a party to it. That's why I asked  
24 Mr. Mathias and Mr. Haney if they recalled such a discussion.

25 I know that this is how the government produced this

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1 to us, but we did have a lot of discussions, just for the  
2 record, about agreeing to all exhibits, both government and  
3 defense exhibits upfront, and we never got anywhere in that  
4 regard because the government continued to tell us that they  
5 couldn't give us answers with respect to all of the calls that  
6 we wanted to play.

7 THE COURT: This is a fight that we don't need to  
8 have.

9 MR. MOORE: Yes, sir.

10 MR. MARK: Is there anything you want to say?

11 MR. HANEY: I will say that we don't have a  
12 stipulation on this. I know we've had conversation, we've had  
13 a lot of conversation about trying to arrive at some  
14 understanding on evidence over the last several months.

15 MR. MARK: You specifically agreed on the --

16 MR. HANEY: No, we won't --

17 MR. MARK: On the redactions?

18 THE COURT: This is not a fight that we're going to  
19 have during the jury's time.

20 (Continued on next page)

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1 (In open court)

2 Q. I think where we left off was I think I had asked a  
3 question regarding the list that the undercover referred to.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. My question is: Had you seen that list; and if so, in what  
6 form did you see it?

7 A. I saw the list. It was sent to me -- it wasn't sent to me  
8 by Christian. It was sent by either the undercover, Jeff, or  
9 Munish, I believe. But I had it in a text message form.

10 MR. BOONE: I'd like to show the witness only for  
11 identification purposes Government Exhibit 1637.

12 Q. Take a look and if you could scroll to show the whole  
13 thing.

14 A. Yes. That is the coach list. That's the list.

15 Q. And is this a picture, screen shot of that list?

16 A. Yes. That's a screen shot of the text message.

17 Q. Does it accurately reflect the text message you remembered  
18 receiving?

19 A. It does, yes.

20 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers  
21 Government Exhibit 1637.

22 THE COURT: Any objection.

23 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

24 MR. CHANEY: No.

25 THE COURT: 1637 will be received.

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1 MR. BOONE: If we could now publish that for the jury.

2 THE COURT: You may.

3 (Government's Exhibit 1637 received in evidence)

4 Q. Now if you could, Mr. Blazer, if you could walk us through  
5 what this list shows.

6 A. This list is -- it says right in the top of the list "These  
7 are my main guys."

8 These are Christian's coaching contacts. And what it  
9 shows is it breaks down by school. And then coaches at the  
10 school. And then in parentheses he puts notes on each of the  
11 coaches.

12 Q. And it looks like there's a designation as superstar. Do  
13 you have an understanding of what was meant by that?

14 A. Superstar means a very good recruiter, a very good contact  
15 for us as well, somebody that we wanted to be working --  
16 somebody that -- like Lamont that we wanted to be paying, in my  
17 opinion, somebody that was moving in the right direction as a  
18 coach.

19 Q. And did you ever meet any of the coaches on this list?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. How did you meet them?

22 A. At a meeting that we would have later on in June in Vegas,  
23 in Las Vegas.

24 Q. Who is we?

25 A. At the meeting was Christian Dawkins, Jeff D'Angelo, the

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1 undercover agent, and me.

2 Q. And we'll talk about that meeting in more detail later but  
3 could you identify from this list which of those coaches you  
4 met through Dawkins at that meeting?

5 A. Yes. At that meeting I met Jordan Fair from Louisville.

6 I met Preston Murphy from Creighton.

7 I met Tony Bland from USC.

8 I met Yasir Rosemond from Alabama.

9 I meant Anthony Coleman from Arizona State

10 I met Amir Abdur-Rahim from Texas A&M. And that's it

11 MR. BOONE: If we could go back to the video,  
12 Government Exhibit 508A, and if we could continue playing.

13 (Video played)

14 Q. You mentioned Lamont. Who are you referring to?

15 A. Lamont Evans.

16 Q. And why are you mentioning Lamont Evans?

17 A. Well, because to reference with Christian and, again, it  
18 had been quite some time since we had really had a meaningful  
19 discussion. I was speaking and for what the undercover, Jeff  
20 D'Angelo, was saying, is talking to Christian about that model  
21 that he had initially introduced us to in Columbia, South  
22 Carolina with Lamont Evans and saying to him that it was a --  
23 it was a model that worked. It was a model that if I paid  
24 Lamont Evans and helped him out with what he needed with  
25 recruits or whatever, Lamont has stuck by me even in the time

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1 that Christian and I were kind of distanced from one another,  
2 Lamont was still in the fold because I was paying him, Lamont  
3 was still willing to work with me and refer players to me,  
4 whatever the structure of my business would have been, even  
5 after the SEC settlement.

6 MR. BOONE: We can continue, please.

7 (Video played)

8 Q. You mentioned Creighton. What are you referring to?

9 A. University of Creighton basketball.

10 Q. And you mentioned sort of a situation involving Creighton.  
11 Can you explain what you're referring to?

12 A. Well, Lamont had talked to me about the fact that he and  
13 Christian were kind of on the outs and weren't really --  
14 weren't really talking very much and he was upset about that  
15 and he told me it was because Christian had helped to send a  
16 recruit, instead of sending a recruit to Oklahoma State and  
17 help Lamont out, Lamont Evans, he decided to sent the recruit  
18 to Creighton and to help the coach out at Creighton.

19 MR. BOONE: If we could continue playing.

20 (Video played)

21 Q. So, Dawkins says, "Brian Bowen ain't going to Stillwater,  
22 Oklahoma." What did you understand him to be referring to?

23 A. A player, a recruit, a highly sought-after grassroots  
24 basketball recruit. And Christian references the fact that he  
25 went to Louisville. He says that Lamont Evans wanted to

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1 recruit him to go to Oklahoma State and Christian says Brian  
2 Bowen was just not going to go to Stillwater, Oklahoma. He  
3 just wasn't going to live and play in Stillwater, Oklahoma and  
4 go and play for Lamont.

5 Q. And relationship, if any, did this have to do with  
6 Creighton?

7 A. Well, Christian also says that don't be -- he shouldn't be  
8 upset, Lamont shouldn't be upset because Brian Bowen ended up  
9 not going to Creighton anyway. He ended up going to  
10 Louisville. Creighton didn't get him either.

11 Q. There's mention of a Preston Murphy. Who is that?

12 A. Christian -- Preston Murphy was an assistant coach at  
13 Creighton. He was one of the individuals on the list that  
14 Christian provided.

15 MR. BOONE: If we could continue, please.

16 (Video played)

17 Q. So in that segment what are you explaining to Dawkins and  
18 the group?

19 A. I'm just kind of, number one, I was speaking to the nature  
20 of the business that they were setting up and I said it's -- to  
21 me it was much easier, it was much better to be a business  
22 manager than it was to try to handle the representation of  
23 everything. Because that gives you flexibility to make --  
24 maneuver to make payments or do whatever you needed to do on  
25 the grassroots end. And then I reiterate to everybody in the



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1 room about the idea of what we did with Lamont Evans and if  
2 you've got a handful of coaches that you are paying like we  
3 were Lamont for the relationships that Lamont is going to be  
4 able to send us, then if you've got a situation like Brian  
5 Bowen or Collin Sexton where you've got a recruit that chooses  
6 to go to Louisville under whatever circumstances instead of  
7 Stillwater, Oklahoma you've got a Collin Sexton behind him that  
8 you've got so many relationships with those coaches that  
9 somebody is going to be happy. The more that he had, the more  
10 flexibility he had, the less you're really burning any bridges.

11 Q. What did you understand Dawkins's response to be?

12 A. He said that -- and definitely in agreement that if you  
13 support the college coaches that's the direction to go with it  
14 and basically said that there is not many college coaches, even  
15 head coaches out there that he didn't have access to.

16 Q. Access meaning what?

17 A. The ability to communicate and discuss this plan that we  
18 were -- this business plan that was formed.

19 MR. BOONE: And we're around line 22, page 10, if we  
20 can continue, please.

21 (Video played)

22 Q. There is mention or you mentioned someone named Book --  
23 sorry. Dawkins mentions someone named Book. Do you know who  
24 that is?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Who is that?

2 A. That's Emanuel Richardson. He was assistant coach at  
3 Arizona University.

4 Q. Is Book a nickname?

5 A. Yes. Book is his nickname.

6 Q. Had you heard of him before this conversation?

7 A. No. I don't -- yes, I have. I heard -- he actually met  
8 with Munish Sood in Vegas maybe a couple of weeks prior to  
9 that -- Christian set up a meeting when Arizona was at their  
10 conference championships in Las Vegas and he set up a meeting  
11 between Munish and Book Richardson and another of Arizona's  
12 assistant coaches.

13 Q. How do you know this?

14 A. Well, I talked to Munish about the meeting, when the  
15 meeting was going on, I was speaking with Munish about him  
16 meeting with Book Richardson.

17 Q. And you said he met with Richardson and someone else. Do  
18 you know who that other person was?

19 A. No, I don't. That assistant coach, I forget what his name,  
20 but he ended up taking a head coaching job shortly after  
21 meeting with Munish he ended up taking a coaching job in  
22 California.

23 Q. And based on your conversations with Sood did you have an  
24 understanding of what the purpose of that meeting was?

25 A. The purpose of the meeting in Vegas?

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1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Well the purpose was for them to -- for them to have an  
3 initial introduction and then for Munish to try to find out  
4 along the lines of Lamont Evans what Book wanted, what he was  
5 going -- what amount of money he was going to need and how he  
6 would need it for us to initiate that kind of relationship with  
7 him.

8 Q. And there is also a mention by Dawkins of someone named  
9 Sean Miller. Do you know who that is?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Who is that?

12 A. Sean Miller is the head coach at Arizona of basketball.

13 Q. And Dawkins says, "Miller will talk on the phone about  
14 stuff he shouldn't talk on the phone about."

15 What was your understanding of what he meant by that?

16 A. I understood him to mean by that that Sean Miller would  
17 talk about inappropriate things regarding recruiting and  
18 players like paying the money and taking payments and that sort  
19 of thing.

20 MR. BOONE: Continue, please.

21 (Video played)

22 Q. You referred to buckets. What are you trying to say there?

23 A. There I'm saying that they -- the establishment of their  
24 business entity for business management, there would be a  
25 bucket of money to be deposited in that entity for the purpose

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1 of running that business. And then there was -- I was thinking  
2 a separate bucket that would be for the purposes of the  
3 Lamont-type deals; in other words, paying coaches like Lamont  
4 Evans to do further relationships that Lamont was to bring to  
5 the table.

6 Q. What relationships were those?

7 A. Player relationships, relationships with basketball players  
8 that he was either recruiting or had on his team.

9 MR. BOONE: Continue, please.

10 (Video played)

11 Q. So what is Dawkins -- what did you understand Dawkins to be  
12 explaining in this segment?

13 A. Well, it started, if I recall, about Christian was  
14 asking -- because he had been -- he had not been privy for a  
15 little while to the dealings that I was doing with Lamont  
16 Evans, how much we were paying Lamont. So he asked, you know,  
17 if you're going to work with these coaches, how much are you --  
18 what's the budget for that, just to get an idea, what are we  
19 talking about? And I said sort of Lamont-esque. And he asked  
20 how much that was. And I told him what we were paying Lamont  
21 at that time. And then he starts to talk about, well if you're  
22 doing that for Lamont --

23 Q. What did you say? How much were you paying?

24 A. I was paying him -- what we worked out with Lamont was  
25 three thousand dollars from me, from the undercover from the

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1 FBI, and then one thousand dollars a month was coming from  
2 Munish Sood.

3 Q. Continue.

4 A. So Christian said Lamont is good but Lamont's not an elite  
5 guy. But if you're going to be paying a coach like Book  
6 Richardson or Kenny Johnson who was assistant coach at  
7 Louisville, then you need to be prepared to pay a lot more. We  
8 need to figure that we're going to have to pay a lot more.

9 And then he gets into a certain dynamic at Arizona --  
10 I don't know if you want me to elaborate or explain what I  
11 understood that to be.

12 Q. Well, first, what did you understand about him to mean when  
13 you just said an elite guy?

14 A. That was a coach that was either a better recruiter or a  
15 coach that was in a position at one of the elite, kind of blue  
16 bloodish schools.

17 Q. What is a blue blood school to you?

18 A. A blue blood school to me is -- was a college basketball  
19 program that was kind of really steeped in tradition, that  
20 year-in and year-out they had a lot of success and they would  
21 bring through their program elite players that went into the  
22 NBA at very high draft picks.

23 Q. Is it your understanding that some college basketball  
24 programs are better than others?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Towards the very end of that segment there's mention of  
2 Sean Miller. What did you understand Dawkins to be saying  
3 about Sean Miller?

4 A. He tells a story about the relationship between Book  
5 Richardson, Sean Miller's assistant, and Sean Miller. And he  
6 mentions a player that -- and a relationship that Sean Miller  
7 had discussed with Christian. I think this meeting was like  
8 June 6<sup>th</sup>. And Christian said that he received a phonecall  
9 from Sean Miller and Sean Miller discussed the fact that he had  
10 been taking care of payments for DeAndre Ayton who was a  
11 grassroots basketball player at the time and Sean Miller was  
12 taking care of everything for DeAndre Ayton and his family.  
13 And he had spoken with Christian about the fact that DeAndre  
14 Ayton had committed to play at Arizona and that DeAndre Ayton  
15 would be on campus June 10. And Sean Miller told Christian if  
16 you're here on June 10, I'll turn over everything that I've  
17 been paying to DeAndre Ayton over to you and you can takeover  
18 and build a relationship and start paying DeAndre Ayton.

19 MR. BOONE: I believe we're around line 12 of page 14  
20 of the transcript, if we could continue.

21 (Video played)

22 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he says if we  
23 could fund those types of guys we'd be running college  
24 basketball?

25 A. Speaking to -- speaking about funding Book Richardson or

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1 Sean Miller but I was thinking more along the lines of Book  
2 Richardson or Kenny Johnson from Louisville that he had  
3 mentioned before. And if we would fund -- if we would pay  
4 those coaches and had a number of different coaches that we  
5 would pay, the same way we were doing with Lamont Evans, that  
6 they would be sending us so many of their players of DeAndre  
7 Ayton, Collin Sexton caliber that we would -- we would takeover  
8 college basketball. We would have -- we would basically have  
9 every significant elite player that came through major college  
10 basketball.

11 MR. BOONE: Continue.

12 (Video played)

13 MR. BOONE: If we could go to transcript page 16.

14 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he says, "Let  
15 me speak to them when they need it"?

16 A. By that I meant him to mean let Christian speak to the  
17 college coaches when they needed money.

18 Q. Money for what?

19 A. Money for -- I understood it to be money for a certain  
20 player that they were recruiting or whatever they would need to  
21 recruit a player to their school or it could be for a player  
22 that they had at the school that had certain needs that they  
23 were going to refer back to us.

24 Q. And so what point, if any, did you understand Dawkins  
25 trying to make here?

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1 A. I think that he was saying that --

2 MR. HANEY: Objection to what he thinks he's saying.  
3 He's pausing. Clearly he's making things up right now.

4 THE COURT: I'll strike that last comment.

5 MR. HANEY: Thank you, Judge.

6 THE COURT: Your objection is sustained.

7 Q. Where Dawkins says, "I say to do this to make it smarter  
8 and get the most bang so everybody can make money. If you're  
9 going to just give the guy four grand a month, I just don't  
10 know what you're giving him four grand a month for."

11 What did you understand him to mean by that statement?

12 A. I took that in reference to Lamont Evans, that Lamont was  
13 not of the level that he felt deserved four thousand dollars a  
14 month and he would rather see it directed to something and  
15 somebody that was going to be able to produce higher  
16 level elite players.

17 Q. So what did you understand was the reason Lamont was not  
18 viewed on that level?

19 A. Because Lamont was at Oklahoma State at the time and  
20 Oklahoma State was not a basketball school like Louisville or  
21 Arizona was.

22 MR. BOONE: We can continue.

23 (Video played)

24 Q. What did you understand Dawkins to mean when he says, "Like  
25 a Book, OK, that makes sense to give him four grand a month"?



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1 A. Well, to the previous point in reference to Lamont Evans at  
2 Oklahoma State, Christian was saying that a coach like Book  
3 Richardson was worthy of paying four thousand dollars a month  
4 because he was an assistant coach at Arizona and they had  
5 basically top-ten picks coming every year out of Arizona. He  
6 was an assistant coach at an elite basketball program so he was  
7 worthy of four thousand dollars a month.

8 MR. BOONE: Continue.

9 (Video played)

10 Q. There is discussion regarding Las Vegas. What did you  
11 understand Dawkins and others to be talking about in regards to  
12 Las Vegas?

13 A. It would make a good -- it would be a good idea for us to  
14 meet these coaches and do this with them in Las Vegas.

15 Q. Was a plan set to meet in Las Vegas?

16 A. The plan was -- at the time, no, the plan was not set to  
17 meet in Las Vegas but we established that now.

18 Q. Ultimately the plan was?

19 A. Ultimately, yes, the plan was to meet in Las Vegas.

20 Q. And what was the purpose of -- what was going to be the  
21 purpose of meeting in Las Vegas?

22 A. The purpose of the meeting in Las Vegas was to be  
23 introduced to these coaches and to initiate or find out what  
24 they -- what money they wanted or needed and then start to  
25 establish the process of paying them for -- in return for the

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1 players they were recruiting or had at their schools.

2 MR. BOONE: Continue.

3 (Video played)

4 Q. The recording we just went over, did that capture the  
5 entire discussion you had on the boat that day?

6 A. No.

7 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, the government offers another  
8 portion of another recording of another portion of that  
9 conversation. It's Government Exhibit 508D and the transcript  
10 we'd also like to offer is Government Exhibit 508DT.

11 THE COURT: Any objection?

12 MR. HANEY: No objection, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: 508D and 508DT will be received.

14 (Government's Exhibits 508D and 508DT received in  
15 evidence)

16 (Video played)

17 Q. The undercover mentions signing a contract. What did you  
18 understand him to be referring to?

19 A. That was the paperwork for the business entity that  
20 Christian, Munish, and the undercover Jeff were establishing.

21 MR. BOONE: Continue, please.

22 (Video played)

23 Q. What is Dawkins holding in his hand?

24 A. That is an expensive bottle of Scotch.

25 Q. And do you know where that bottle came from?

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Blazer - Direct

1 A. The undercover agent, the FBI agents got a bottle for  
2 Christian and a bottle for Munish to celebrate or to  
3 memorialize the signing of the business entity.

4 MR. BOONE: Continue.

5 (Video played)

6 (Continued on next page)

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Blazer - Direct

1 MR. BOONE: If we could pause here for a moment.

2 Q. This kid Dawkins is referring to, do you know who he's  
3 referring to?

4 A. No, no, it was just a -- somebody that he was going to  
5 have -- have an assistant work with him who was the brother of  
6 a -- of a high, projected high college basketball player.

7 MR. BOONE: OK. Continue.

8 (Video played)

9 MR. BOONE: You could pause right there.

10 Q. What did the undercover just hand Munish Sood?

11 A. He handed him an envelope with \$25,000 cash in it.

12 MR. BOONE: If we could continue playing.

13 (Video played)

14 BY MR. BOONE:

15 Q. Mr. Blazer, who was just speaking there?

16 A. That was Munish Sood.

17 Q. In addition to Jeff D'Angelo, was there any other  
18 undercover agents at this meeting?

19 A. There was. To Jeff D'Angelo's right, there was another  
20 undercover agent. Jill Bailey was her name.

21 Q. What was your understanding as to what role she was  
22 playing?

23 A. She was just there to -- I mean, I didn't really know what  
24 her role. She was just involved as a business partner of  
25 Jeff's just to kind of make the whole situation more

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1 comfortable.

2 MR. BOONE: OK. If you'd continue.

3 (Video played)

4 BY MR. BOONE:

5 Q. Now I want to switch gears a little bit. At the beginning  
6 of your testimony, you testified that you had met the defendant  
7 Merl Code through Christian Dawkins. You recall that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Before meeting Merl Code, had you heard of him before?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Approximately when did you meet him?

12 A. I met Merl in June of 2017, probably about two weeks after  
13 the meeting on the yacht. It was around NBA draft.

14 Q. And prior to meeting the defendant Merl Code, what  
15 discussions, if any, did you have with Dawkins about Code?

16 A. Prior to meeting Merl, there were -- I don't believe I had  
17 many, if any, conversations with Christian about Merl.

18 Q. Did you have an understanding as to why you were meeting  
19 Merl Code?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What was your understanding?

22 A. My understanding was that Merl was an employee at Adidas,  
23 and he had connections on all three levels of basketball, but  
24 that he had tremendous connections with a lot of the college  
25 coaches and grass roots coaches.

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1 Q. Where did you meet him?

2 A. We met -- I met him in a hotel suite at the, I believe,  
3 Conrad Hotel in New York.

4 Q. Who attended that meeting?

5 A. At that meeting it was me; Merl Code; Christian Dawkins;  
6 the two undercover FBI agents, Jeff and Jill; and Munish Sood  
7 and his assistant Alicia Carroll.

8 Q. Who set up that meeting?

9 A. Christian Dawkins set up that meeting.

10 Q. Why was the meeting in New York?

11 A. The meeting was in New York because it was -- we had  
12 discussed it on the yacht, but it was around the NBA draft, and  
13 there would be a lot of people around. That's what I  
14 understood it to be.

15 Q. Where was the NBA draft?

16 A. The NBA draft was in New York, New York City.

17 Q. Were there other meetings scheduled in New York around that  
18 time?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What other meetings?

21 A. There was a meeting set up with Book Richardson from -- the  
22 assistant coach at Arizona. There was a meeting set up with  
23 Preston Murphy, the assistant coach at Creighton, and I believe  
24 there was a meeting set up with Shane Heirman from DePaul. I'm  
25 not a hundred percent sure, but I think there was a meeting set

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1 with him or discussed with him as well.

2 Q. So let's go through those one by one.

3 A. OK.

4 Q. Starting with the meeting with Emanuel "Book" Richardson,  
5 who set up that meeting?

6 A. Christian. My understanding, Christian Dawkins set that  
7 meeting up.

8 Q. Did you have an understanding as to who Dawkins wanted to  
9 meet Book Richardson?

10 A. Who he wanted to meet Book Richardson?

11 Q. Right, who was going to be involved in that meeting.

12 A. Well, it was going to be Jeff D'Angelo, the undercover  
13 agent, and Munish Sood.

14 Q. What was your understanding as to the purpose of that  
15 meeting?

16 A. The purpose of that meeting was, in conjunction with what  
17 we had discussed on the yacht, was to make a payment or start  
18 the process of making payments to Book Richardson, and in  
19 return, Book Richardson would start to steer his clients or his  
20 players, recruits our way for the business management.

21 Q. Did that meeting take place?

22 A. Yes, that meeting took place.

23 Q. Do you know when?

24 A. It was in June of 2017, sort of late morning.

25 Q. Let me ask you differently. Do you know when that meeting

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1 occurred in relation to the meeting with Code you attended?

2 A. Oh, yes, it was right before the meeting with Merl Code.

3 Q. Where was it?

4 A. The meeting in New York, it was in -- it was in the hotel  
5 room, the hotel suite in New York.

6 Q. Why didn't you attend the meeting with Book Richardson?

7 A. I mean, my understanding was that the meeting got moved up  
8 because Book Richardson had to do -- Book had to leave or he  
9 was doing something else, and my flight came in a little later.  
10 I also think that it was probably Christian might not have  
11 wanted me at that meeting because of if my name came out, but I  
12 wasn't a hundred percent sure of that.

13 Q. Do you know what happened at that meeting?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. How do you know what happened?

16 A. Well, both from the undercover agent and from Munish Sood  
17 and Christian, we all kind of talked about it after Book had  
18 left and before the meeting with Merl.

19 Q. So are you saying the group discussed it in the meeting  
20 with Merl?

21 A. Group discussed it, yes, in the meeting.

22 Q. What was your understanding as to what happened in the  
23 meeting with Book Richardson?

24 A. Book was paid by Jeff, the undercover agent, was given, I  
25 believe, \$5,000. And he was -- he had agreed to start to take



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1 money in exchange for referring his players and relationships  
2 to them, us, on the business management side.

3 Q. Have you ever met Book Richardson?

4 A. No, I never met Book Richardson.

5 Q. I want to now focus on the meeting you said was scheduled  
6 with Preston Murphy. Who is Preston Murphy again?

7 A. Preston Murphy was assistant coach at Creighton basketball.

8 Q. Do you know what the purpose was of setting up the meeting  
9 with Preston Murphy?

10 A. The purpose of setting up the meeting with Preston Murphy  
11 was the same as the meeting with Book Richardson. We were  
12 going to start to make payments to Preston Murphy in exchange  
13 for relationships that he could send our way for business.

14 Q. Do you know if that meeting occurred?

15 A. That meeting did not occur.

16 Q. Do you know why?

17 A. Well, Christian had told everybody that Preston couldn't  
18 make it because at the time, I think the night before he was  
19 supposed to be in New York. His son was in the emergency room,  
20 and he just -- something happened, and he stayed and did not  
21 make it to New York that time.

22 Q. Did there come a point when you later met Preston Murphy?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. When was that?

25 A. That was late June in Las Vegas.

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1 Q. And who set up that meeting?

2 A. Christian Dawkins.

3 Q. What happened at that meeting?

4 A. We met with Preston Murphy, and Preston was paid \$6,000.

5 Q. Why was he paid \$6,000?

6 A. He was paid \$6,000. He was going to be one of the -- there  
7 was no real person, to my knowledge, that he was recruiting at  
8 the time. Preston Murphy was going to be a monthly retainer.  
9 In other words, he was like Book Richardson. He was going to  
10 get paid on a monthly basis, and then he would be paid as  
11 needed. So he was paid that money on a monthly basis, and in  
12 exchange for that, he was going to refer his relationships, his  
13 players and recruited players, our way for business.

14 Q. Do you know someone by the name of Raymond Brothers?

15 A. Yes, I know that name, yes.

16 Q. Who is that?

17 A. Raymond Brothers is an NBA agent. And, right, there was a  
18 meeting set up with Raymond Brothers as well in New York at  
19 that time.

20 Q. Do you know why there was a meeting set up with Raymond  
21 Brothers in New York?

22 A. Raymond Brothers was agent for Markelle Fultz, who was a  
23 draft prospect. He ended up being the first pick overall in  
24 the -- I believe it was the 2017 NBA draft. And I was not in  
25 that meeting, but in conversations, just it was about perhaps

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1 helping Raymond Brothers with some money and, in exchange, he  
2 would direct some of Markelle Fultz's business for the business  
3 management side.

4 Q. Why were you not in that meeting?

5 A. Again, I think it was and I was kind of told by Munish that  
6 Christian thought it would be a good idea if I wasn't in that  
7 meeting because, I think -- well, not I think, I had met  
8 Raymond before, years and years ago, and he knew who I was.  
9 And I believe if he had known my name and that I was in that  
10 meeting, probably wouldn't have been a good thing because he  
11 would have thought I was involved in it, and he knew my past.

12 Q. Your past being your --

13 A. Right, the misappropriation and movies and music and the  
14 SEC settlement.

15 Q. Now I want to focus back on your meeting with Code. Who  
16 was there for that meeting?

17 A. In that meeting it was me, Merl Code, the two undercover  
18 agents, Christian Dawkins, Munish Sood, and Munish's assistant,  
19 Alicia Carroll.

20 Q. Was that meeting recorded by law enforcement?

21 A. Yes, it was.

22 Q. What happened at the meeting?

23 A. At the meeting, we were introduced to Merl, and Merl gave  
24 us a background on his work experience at both Nike and Adidas  
25 and a little bit about what he did at Adidas. And then we

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1 talked about his relationships with both grass roots and  
2 college coaches that he had relationships with.

3 Q. How did that meeting end?

4 A. That meeting ended with the idea that Merl was -- Merl was  
5 willing to work with us. Merl -- Jeff, the undercover agent  
6 gave Merl, I think, \$2,000, and Merl agreed to set up some of  
7 the meetings with the college coaches.

8 MR. BOONE: At this time, your Honor, the government  
9 wants to offer a recording of that meeting. It's Government  
10 Exhibit 510A1, and the related transcript is Government  
11 Exhibit 510A1T.

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. CHANEY: No, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: 510A1 and 510A1T will be received.

15 (Government's Exhibits 510A1 and 510A1T received in  
16 evidence)

17 MR. BOONE: If we could begin, please.

18 (Video played)

19 MR. BOONE: Can we pause here.

20 Q. What are we looking at on the screen?

21 A. We are looking at the meeting that was held in New York in  
22 June of 2017. And the participants of the meeting, all the way  
23 to the right, redacted is his face, the undercover agent Jeff  
24 D'Angelo. Next to him is the undercover agent Jill Bailey.  
25 And then there were other people there. Merl Code is in the

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1 chair sort of in the middle of the screen.

2 Q. Where were you? Where are you sitting?

3 A. I was sitting directly to Merl's right. You can't really  
4 see me at this time. I think I was sitting in a chair directly  
5 to Merl's right.

6 Q. There's a reference to meeting with Book. What did you  
7 understand that reference to be referring to?

8 A. That was the meeting that happened earlier with Book  
9 Richardson from Arizona.

10 Q. And the undercover, Jeff D'Angelo, references Book leaving  
11 happy. What did you understand that to mean?

12 A. I understood that to mean that Book left happy because Jeff  
13 had given him the \$5,000.

14 Q. Then Code says he did. If we could continue playing.

15 (Video played)

16 MR. BOONE: We could pause here.

17 Q. So Dawkins mentions that Code is involved in all three  
18 levels of basketball. What did you understand him to mean by  
19 that?

20 A. The three levels of basketball Merl -- it really starts  
21 with the grass roots, the high school-age travel basketball  
22 players, so Merl had some influence in that area. And then the  
23 second level was from grass roots to college, the college  
24 basketball players and the coaches and everybody involved in  
25 the college level. And then he had some influence on the

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1 players after they leave college in the NBA. So he was  
2 influential and had contacts on all three levels.

3 MR. BOONE: OK. If we can continue. I believe we're  
4 around line 6.

5 (Video played)

6 MR. BOONE: You could pause it.

7 Q. What did you understand Code to be explaining in regards to  
8 his background?

9 MR. CHANEY: Your Honor, I'm going to object and ask  
10 to approach.

11 THE COURT: OK.

12 (Continued on next page)

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1 (At sidebar)

2 MR. CHANEY: The issue, I think Mr. Moore actually  
3 raised this earlier, specifically with respect to Mr. Code,  
4 Mr. Blazer has no prior dealings with Mr. Code, does not have a  
5 relationship with Mr. Code, did not obtain a relationship with  
6 Mr. Code after this meeting. This is, in fact, the only time  
7 they ever spoke at all. And so the degree to which the  
8 government can lay a foundation for Mr. Blazer to opine as to  
9 what Mr. Code meant or did not mean in any of the statements in  
10 that meeting is improper.

11 THE COURT: I think that the question posed was why  
12 was Mr. Code telling you about his background, and to that  
13 extent, the objection will be sustained. To the extent that  
14 Mr. Blazer has an understanding of what Code meant by certain  
15 words or phrases, that will be allowed. But the question as to  
16 why he was saying what he was saying is sustained.

17 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, to be clear, the question was  
18 what did you understand him to be saying about his background,  
19 not why was he explaining his background.

20 THE COURT: OK.

21 MR. BOONE: Is that permissible?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. CHANEY: Your Honor, just to let the Court know,  
24 opposing counsel know, since I think we're pretty close to  
25 running out of time, I think our position would be we would try

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1 to put something in writing to the Court on this issue  
2 overnight so we can potentially address this.

3 THE COURT: That's fine. I'm going to send the jury  
4 home now.

5 (Continued on next page)



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1 (In open court; jury present)

2 THE COURT: Folks, it's almost 2:30, so we're stopping  
3 now. We'll pick up again tomorrow with Mr. Blazer.

4 Until then, have a safe trip home. Please do not read  
5 anything that you may see about this case. Please do not look  
6 at anything or listen to anything that you may see in the media  
7 about this case. Please do not discuss the case. And please  
8 do try to be prompt tomorrow morning so we can get you started  
9 at 9:30.

10 Have a very good evening.

11 (Jury excused)

12 (Continued on next page)

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(Jury not present)

THE COURT: You can be seated.

So, Mr. Chaney, if the --

MR. CHANEY: May the witness be excused?

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Mr. Blazer, you can step out.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

(Witness excused)

THE COURT: Mr. Chaney, do I understand the objection to be that Mr. Blazer ought not be allowed to testify at all as to what his understanding was about what was being discussed?

MR. CHANEY: To a certain degree, I think that's an accurate statement of our objection. And to kind of supplement what we were speaking about at the bench, Mr. Blazer's personal opinions, his personal understanding of what Mr. Code meant by certain statements really isn't relevant to the material issues in this case. It's not separately relevant as the effect on him as a listener or anything sort of in that vein. The jury is specifically tasked with interpreting what Mr. Code meant or did not mean by certain statements and whether or not those statements reflected a guilty mind, the specific intent to participate in a conspiracy to pay college coaches in exchange for funneling players back to this Loyd Inc.

So to the degree that Mr. Blazer, a witness who has no prior knowledge or dealing with Mr. Code, who would necessarily be speculating as to what Mr. Code meant or did not mean, can

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1 get to supplant his opinion in the form of evidence for what is  
2 necessarily a jury determination, I think, would be  
3 inappropriate.

4 MR. BOONE: Your Honor, Mr. Code is obviously charged  
5 with being a member of the conspiracy. Mr. Blazer is going to  
6 be testifying about conversations made in furtherance of that  
7 conspiracy. He has context to provide that because he was  
8 involved in this from the beginning to the end. He mentioned  
9 already the fact that through Dawkins he had an understanding  
10 of why they were meeting with Code and sort of what Code was  
11 going to be providing. He'll later testify about how Code was  
12 involved in the meeting in Vegas, his understanding being  
13 gained from those also in the conspiracy.

14 So he certainly has the ability to talk about what  
15 Code meant in regards to conversations involving the  
16 conspiracy. In particular, in this meeting, it's not some sort  
17 of five-minute meeting. It's a very long meeting. Obviously,  
18 as a participant in a very detailed, very thorough meeting, he  
19 can explain what was discussed in the meeting. And they were  
20 having a conversation, so what he was saying to him and what he  
21 meant by that and what Merl Code's responses were to his  
22 questions, just like anyone sort of can when they're talking to  
23 someone.

24 But it's particularly irrelevant, as I said earlier,  
25 because he is a member of the conspiracy, and there are things

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1 happening in the conspiracy, including Code, outside of Code,  
2 that inform his view as to statements that, we offer, are  
3 statements made in furtherance of the conspiracy.

4 Also, just to be clear, there's also a lot of sports  
5 lingo and lingo that's sort of common in their industry that  
6 will not be understandable to the jury, frankly, without him  
7 explaining what is meant by that. There's been a little of  
8 that already in terms of "one and done," things of that nature.  
9 At least the government doesn't feel everyone sort of  
10 automatically knows what they mean. He's testified about he  
11 spent majority of his life, professional life, involved in  
12 sports in the sense of being a financial representative of  
13 those in sports. He knows that lingo. He knows sort of what  
14 these terms mean, and so he's going to be asked to sort of  
15 explain that to the jury again, which he's clearly capable of  
16 doing. He testified he spent 20-some-odd years doing that.

17 THE COURT: I guess, to that point, I was going to  
18 mention it at an appropriate time, but the jury, as I mentioned  
19 earlier this morning, it's a smart jury. So at this point you  
20 don't have to ask Mr. Blazer, or anyone else, what do you mean  
21 by grass roots? The jury's gotten that at this point. The  
22 jury has gotten the three levels: the grass roots, college, and  
23 the NBA. So a lot of those things that once you go over it  
24 once or twice, I think this jury gets it.

25 The reason -- well, with respect to the particular

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1 objection, the reason why I thought you asked why was because  
2 Mr. Code was being perfectly clear he was simply giving,  
3 essentially, a résumé. Therefore, what was your understanding  
4 of what he was doing, he was telling us his experience. What I  
5 thought you were getting at was why was he giving you that  
6 experience, and that, I think, would be an inappropriate road  
7 for Mr. Blazer to go down, period.

8 MR. CHANEY: Your Honor, could I follow up one thing  
9 Mr. Boone mentioned because I don't know if I understood him  
10 appropriately? He said -- Mr. Boone, I mean, said it was  
11 relevant what Mr. Blazer -- what Mr. Blazer's understanding was  
12 because he is a member of the conspiracy. If that's the  
13 government's position, I don't think that that comports with  
14 the law.

15 MR. BOONE: I said Code was a member of the  
16 conspiracy.

17 MR. CHANEY: OK. That's why I was asking to clarify.

18 THE COURT: But, again, particularly with that section  
19 of the transcript, I mean, I don't know that -- at least to my  
20 eyes, and I was reading it with an eye as to what the jury  
21 would be reading, I mean, it seemed perfectly clear to me that  
22 Mr. Code was simply going over his experience. There may be a  
23 phrase in there or two, perhaps, that needs some further  
24 clarification, but I didn't see much, at least as far as I  
25 read.

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1 But to the extent that the question is, what was your  
2 understanding about what Mr. Code meant by one phrase or  
3 another, I think that that's perfectly appropriate.

4 MR. CHANEY: And, your Honor, on the point that  
5 Mr. Boone made that Mr. Blazer has all of this experience and  
6 can decipher coded basketball language, that's, in fact, not  
7 the testimony of Mr. Blazer. He had certainly a history  
8 dealing with football players, but he expressed under oath  
9 today that he had very limited knowledge of the basketball  
10 world until getting involved here and was largely relying on  
11 other people's knowledge. So he's not an appropriate vehicle  
12 for the jury to get their understanding of the inner workings  
13 of basketball.

14 THE COURT: He's an appropriate vehicle to tell the  
15 jury his understanding and to put in context, therefore,  
16 whatever statements he made in response.

17 MR. BOONE: Yes, and just not to belabor the point,  
18 but, obviously, at this point in time, Mr. Blazer had been  
19 cooperating for quite some time in the world of basketball.  
20 And so to the extent he wasn't an expert before, he certainly  
21 was much more informed about the inner workings of basketball  
22 at this point.

23 THE COURT: I'm so much more informed about the inner  
24 workings of basketball at this point.

25 OK. Anything else?

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1 MR. HANEY: No, your Honor.

2 MR. CHANEY: Not at this time.

3 THE COURT: Anything from the government?

4 MR. BOONE: No, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: OK. Folks, be here no later than  
6 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. It sounds like we've got work to  
7 do.

8 (Adjourned to April 25, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.)

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